

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2004

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Web site statement claims corporal was killed

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Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun

Raid near Baghdad nabs RPGs, arrest



AP photos
First Cavalry soldiers raided numerous homes in a rural section of Abu Ghraib on Friday, on the outskirts of Baghdad. Rocket-propelled grenades and other explosives were recovered, and one Iraqi man was arrested. Above: Soldiers search a home. Left: A soldier looks through hay bales.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson case: Key details surrounding Michael Jackson's child molestation case were again hidden from public view when a judge sealed a critical defense motion in the case without comment.

Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville on Friday sealed a motion that seeks dismissal of charges against the singer at the request of defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr., continuing a pattern of secrecy imposed throughout the proceedings.

Mesereau's motion said sealing was needed "based on the overriding interests of Mr. Jackson's rights to due process and a fair trial."

Schwarzenegger suit: A Los Angeles judge Friday dismissed a libel suit brought against California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his campaign by a former stuntwoman who leveled election eve charges last fall that she had twice been assaulted by him.

In an 11-page opinion, Superior Court Judge Robert L. Hess ruled that Rhonda Miller's decision to hold a news conference to level her accusations put her in the role of a limited public figure. As such, Hess said, Miller's attorneys had to offer "clear and convincing" evidence that Schwarzenegger and others knew Miller had no criminal history when the campaign sent out an e-mail to reporters suggesting they check Miller's background in criminal court records.

Ronald Reagan mourning: The nation ends its formal mourning over the death of President Reagan on Saturday, when flags lowered to half-staff can again be flown at 30-day staff.

President Bush ordered flags flown at half-staff for all states after Reagan died on June 5 at age 93.

White House spokesman Jimmy Orr said, however, it was decided to raise the flags again, over the Fourth of July weekend, "in honor and tribute to the memory of President Reagan."

Spector case: Legendary record producer Phil Spector wants his money back.

He claims in a lawsuit that his former attorney, Robert L. Shapiro, owes him at least a portion of the \$1 million retainer he paid for legal counsel in his murder case.

But Shapiro says Spector actually owes him \$500,000, according to the lawsuit.

The two men parted ways in February, when Spector brought in a new legal team, led by Leslie Abramson, to defend him on charges that he fatally shot Lana Clarkson, a 40-year-old actress and nightclub hostess he met earlier that evening.

Meanwhile, in Spector's criminal case, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Carlos Uranga ordered defense attorneys on Friday to turn over a fingerprint that belonged to Clarkson if they have it, or else it may not be later submitted for evidence.

Grounded air tankers: Five large air tankers that had been grounded over safety concerns will be back fighting fires Monday now that their private operator has demonstrated they are safe to fly, federal officials said Friday.

The five planes, former Navy P-3 Orion owned by California-based Aero Orion Corp., were among 33 planes grounded in May because officials had no way to tell if they were safe. The planes are mostly military surplus and some are as old as 60 years.



Kashmir violence: Relatives of wounded civilians wait near the site of explosion Saturday in Kashmir's capital, Srinagar. A time bomb detonated on the main thoroughfare, killing two people and wounding 21 others, police said. A total of eight were killed and 44 wounded Saturday in Kashmir from what police say was retaliation for a recent crackdown on militants.

Rudolph case: Lawyers for Eric Rudolph attacked a key prosecution witness Friday in their first detailed response to charges that the serial bombing suspect set off a deadly explosion outside an abortion clinic.

The defense filing also focused on evidence that someone else could have committed the 1998 bombing at the clinic in Birmingham, Ala.

Rudolph is charged in the abortion clinic bombing, which killed a policeman and critically injured a nurse, and in the 1996 Olympic park blast that killed a woman in Atlanta. He also is accused of setting off more bombs in Atlanta in 1997.

Germany plane collision: Families of six Russians killed in a mid-air collision between two airplanes over Germany are suing aviation equipment manufacturers in the United States, blaming a collision avoidance system for the crash that killed 71 people.

In all, 30 Russian families plan to sue Honeywell International and four other companies involved in the manufacture and distribution of the collision avoidance system they blame for giving pilots instructions that conflicted with orders from a Swiss air traffic controller.

The six lawsuits filed Thursday in Miami allege Honeywell and the other companies failed to provide adequate procedures, instructions and training.

Space station crew: Still weary from his spacewalk, space station astronaut Mike Fincke got a surprise call from a "specialist" with a rundown on new bedtime procedures to help ease him back into an orbital routine.

"Step one is that you may have a bedtime treat if you've been good and not sassed anyone. And step one-A is that you have to go to the bathroom ..."

"Step three is, let me see, that's wash your face and hands — that's both hands. And brush your teeth and don't spit on the floor. And number four is, oh yes, say your prayers. And number five is get into your jammies and you may have three bedtime stories but nothing too scary. Copy?"

The reply from space "Hi, Adam."

Alma Fincke burst into laughter at Mission Control. "You got me," she said.

Cassini images: The U.S.-European Cassini spacecraft strained to see through the murky atmosphere of Titan on its first flyby of Saturn's enormous moon.

This image taken by the Cassini spacecraft shows Titan, a moon of Saturn, enveloped in a photochemical smog.

The raw, unprocessed images from Cassini's flyby at a distance of about 200,000 miles early Friday had little clarity.

"We were hoping that we'd get lucky and they'd be clearer, that the Titan atmosphere when we finally got there would be maybe not so hazy," said Carolyn Porco, the Cassini imaging team leader.

World

France serial killings: Investigators found human remains near a French chateau where a confessed serial killer admitted to burying two young victims in the late 1980s, a judicial official said.

Suspect Michel Fournier, jailed in Belgium since June 2003, agreed to help authorities find the bodies on the grounds of a chateau he once owned in northern France, the judicial official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The former forest ranger told investigators that he buried 12-year-old Elisabeth Brichet and 22-year-old Jeanne-Marie Desramault on the property in Donchery, the officials said. Both went missing in 1989.

Afghanistan efforts: U.S. forces in Afghanistan killed about a dozen militants in the past week, the military said Saturday, in efforts to keep Taliban-led rebels on the defensive ahead of Afghanistan's national elections.

Afghan officials said another 12 militants were killed in a clash late Friday, but the U.S. military had no word on that fighting.

The dozen deaths announced by the U.S. military occurred in skirmishes across the troubled south in which another dozen militants were detained, U.S. spokesman Maj. Jon Siepmann said.

Stories and photos from wire services



Armed militiamen patrol the streets of Najaf, Iraq, on May 26. Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's fledgling government may offer amnesty to Iraqi insurgents and perhaps pardon those who killed Americans.

Roadside bomb kills seven Iraqi police at checkpoint

New government may grant amnesty to insurgents

BY DANICA KIRKA

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents detonated a roadside bomb at an Iraqi checkpoint south of the capital Saturday, killing seven national guard soldiers and wounding two more, in the latest attacks against forces of the new Iraqi government, U.S. officials said.

Meanwhile, west of Baghdad, a U.S. Marine died of wounds suffered Friday during operations in Anbar province, the military said. The Marine was the fourth to die this month in Anbar, a Sunni-dominated area that includes Fallujah, Ramadi and Qaim that has been a hotbed of anti-U.S. resistance.

The U.S. military gave no details of its operations in Anbar province or how the Marine was killed.

In political developments, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's new government is considering offering amnesty to Iraqi insurgents who fought the U.S.-led occupation, perhaps even pardoning those who killed Americans.

A spokesman for Allawi said fighting with U.S. troops was "justi-

fied" as resistance to occupation.

"If [a guerrilla] was in opposition against the Americans, that will be justified because it was an occupation force," spokesman Georges Sada said. "We will give them freedom."

Sada added that details of an amnesty were still being worked out and a full pardon for insurgents who killed Americans is not a certainty. The main thrust is to "start everything from new" by giving a second chance to rebel fighters who hand in their weapons and swear off the insurgency, he said.

In Baghdad, U.S. forces said they'd uncovered a bomb-making facility and detained dozens of people believed linked to an insurgent cell alleged to have been planting roadside bombs in the area.

During the operation, soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division discovered several assembled bombs, four vehicles they believed were to be rigged as car bombs, several automatic weapons, ammunition, explosives and \$8,750.

The discovery led soldiers to a

string of other sites, where they discovered hidden weapons caches filled with partially assembled bombs and other weapons, the military said.

"These discoveries deal a blow to anti-Iraqi forces," Lt. Col. James Hutton, the spokesman for the 1st Cavalry, said in a statement.

In the southern city of Basra, one British soldier was wounded and two military vehicles damaged when a roadside bomb exploded at 9:15 a.m., a British military spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

The seven Iraqi national guardsmen were killed at the checkpoint early Saturday were stationed in Mahmudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, U.S. officials said.

Jordan and Yemen have offered to send troops to help shore up security, but Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari gave a lukewarm response Saturday, repeating the government's stance that Iraq would consider an offer by non-neighboring Arab countries.

"We welcome Arab contributions to support and reinforce stability in Iraq, but there are several means and ways to extend a helping hand," Zebari said.

Group: Captive Marine killed

Web site says Hassoun beheaded

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An Iraqi militant group claimed on a Web site Saturday that it had beheaded a captive U.S. Marine, in what would be the fourth decapitation of a foreign hostage in the region since May.

The group, called the Ansar al-Sunna Army, posted a written statement on an Islamic Web site claiming that it had killed Lebanese-born Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun.

It also said it had taken another hostage but did not give details.

"We would like to inform you that the Marine of Lebanese origin, Hassoun, has been slaughtered. You are going to see the video with your very eyes soon," said the statement, signed in the name of the group's leader, Abu Abdullah al-Hassan bin Mahmud.

The U.S. military in Baghdad said it was checking into the report of the 24-year-old Hassoun's death but had no confirmation for the moment.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the group's statement.

The group called itself the Ansar al-Sunna Army in Qaim, a town on the Iraqi border with Syria. The message was dated June 20, the day the military said Hassoun was first reported missing — though the posting was dated Saturday.

"We will show a new video of the detention of a new infidel hostage and as recently promised, the beheading of rotten heads," the statement said.

"Withdraw your army and you will be safe," it said. "Or else we will keep doing what we are doing."

On June 27, the Arab television station Al-Jazeera broadcast a videotape showing Hassoun blindfolded, along with a statement from militants threatening to kill him unless the United States releases all Iraqis in "occupation jails."

In that initial statement, the kidnappers identified themselves as "Islamic Response," the security wing of the "National Islamic Resistance" — 1920 Revolution Brigades" referring to the uprising against the British after World War I.

Saturday's claim on Hassoun's death was issued on the same Islamic extremist Web forum where footage was posted last month showing the beheading of U.S. engineer Paul M. Johnson Jr. in Saudi Arabia.

Another militant group in Iraq claimed last week that it had killed Spc. Keith M. Maupin, an American soldier who had been held captive since

April. The military has not confirmed that Maupin was the man shown in the video of a man being shot.

Hassoun

Saturday's statement, the militants said they used a woman to trap Hassoun. "As your soldier had a love affair with a young Arab woman, he has been lured from the base," the statement said.

The U.S. military said Hassoun had been absent without authorization since July 20, though after the video was shown it listed his status as "captured."

The New York Times, citing a Marine officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity, has reported on its Web site that Hassoun had been traumatized after seeing one of his sergeants killed by a mortar, and was trying to make his way back to Lebanon. The officer told the paper that Hassoun sought the help of Iraqis on the base, was betrayed by them, and was handed over to the extremists.

Hassoun's eldest brother, Mohammad, denied the report.

Navy prepares to evacuate U.S. civilians out of Bahrain

BY ADNAN MALIK

The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Terrorist fears in Bahrain have forced the cancellation of Fourth of July celebrations, the U.S. Embassy announced Saturday, as the Navy prepared to evacuate families of service members and nonessential personnel from the tiny Gulf island state.

The measures follow a U.S. State Department advisory on Thursday cautioning Americans against traveling to Bahrain, home of the U.S. 5th Fleet, and advis-

ing those who live there to leave.

On Friday, the Pentagon said it is withdrawing servicemen's families and nonessential personnel from Bahrain for at least 30 days in response to intelligence on planned attacks by terrorists.

The warnings did not elaborate on the reported threats except to say terrorists were at large and the information was credible.

"We are still waiting for a formal order to execute the departure," said Cmdr. James Graybeal, spokesman of the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet.

Graybeal said about 350 families of U.S. military personnel live in Bahrain. The Pentagon has said they will be taken to unspecified locations in the continental United States and not be allowed to return to Bahrain until the mandatory withdrawal order is terminated.

"We take force protection very seriously and we are constantly doing things to make sure servicemen and families are protected," Graybeal said without elaborating.

Citing security reasons, the U.S. Embassy announced in a faxed statement that a

Fourth of July reception that was scheduled to take place at a hotel in the Bahraini capital, Manama, had been cancelled.

U.S. Embassy and Bahraini officials could not be reached for comment.

Bahrain has stepped up security on a 15-mile causeway that links the country to Saudi Arabia amid fears terrorists may be planning to attack the bridge.

There are also fears that Saudi militants, under pressure from their security forces, might see Bahrain as an easier place to attack Western targets.

U.S. investigates new abuse allegations

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. military investigators are looking into another allegation of abuse in a network of secretive American jails where at least four prisoners have died, the military said Saturday.

Meanwhile, a rights group said that an Afghan man claimed he was burned and beaten so badly last year by Afghan militiamen guarding an American base that he needed surgery.

The cases add to concern about reported prisoner abuse in Afghanistan stretching back to the war that ousted the Taliban in late 2001 — a list that has re-

More prisoner mistreatment reported in Afghanistan

ceived fresh attention since the scandal broke over detainee mistreatment in Iraq.

The U.S. military recently opened at least two new investigations after former Afghan prisoners said they were beaten and sexually abused.

U.S. military spokesman Maj. Jon Siepmann would not give details of the latest probe, including when or where the alleged abuse took place, or whether it involved any deaths and who was accused.

Siepmann, however, said the Naval Criminal Investigative Service was investigating, which suggests that Marines might have

been implicated. The Marines are a separate service within the Department of the Navy.

Navy special forces, known as SEALs, have also served in Afghanistan.

"The allegation is characterized as detainee abuse," Siepmann told reporters. He promised "appropriate action" based on the outcome of the investigation.

"It's the same old story," said Nader Nadery of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. "They never share information and we just don't know what's going on in these detention centers."

This month, Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, is to announce the results of a review of a network of 20 jails across the country.

Officials say the prison program has already been altered as a result of the review, carried out since late May by a brigadier-general under Barno's command.

The International Committee of the Red Cross regularly visits prisoners at the main jail at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, and last week began visiting the next-largest jail in the southern city of Kandahar.

But its reports are not released,

and neither the Afghan human rights commission nor the media has been given any access to U.S. holding facilities.

Rights activists are also concerned about the behavior of Afghan militiamen working with the 20,000 U.S.-led troops here.

Nadery said commission officials were seeking a meeting with the U.S. military to present their concerns and a dossier including photos of scars on Haeem's body.

— some from the burns, others from surgery he underwent in Pakistan for abdominal injuries.

"They should at least make sure that these things don't happen," Nadery said.

A U.S. military spokeswoman said she was unaware of Haeem's case.

Gadhafi's daughter joins Saddam's defense team

BY SHAFIKA MATTAR

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — The daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi will join Saddam Hussein's multinational defense team to help for deposed Iraqi dictator fight war crimes charges in court, a Jordanian lawyer and member of the legal team representing the former Iraqi dictator said Friday.

Aicha Moammar Gadhafi, a law professor, will form a Libyan law experts team to defend Saddam, Ziad al-Khasawneh, who also is on the legal team representing the former Iraqi leader, said.

"The daughter of the Libyan president is welcomed to join us, and we consider her as an official member of the team," al-Khasawneh said Friday.

He added that the Jordanian-based multinational defense team had telephoned Moammar Gadhafi on Thursday to offer their thanks.

On Saturday, group members said the team

was going to send an attorney to Iraq to try to meet with Saddam.

Iraqi authorities have not recognized the team of 20 Jordanian and foreign lawyers appointed by Saddam's wife, Sajida. The lawyers have said they fear their lives will be in danger if they come to Iraq.

Ziad Najdawi, a member of the team, will present the Iraqis with the power of attorney signed by Sajida and try to meet Saddam, said Mohammed Rashdan, the head of the defense team.

Gadhafi's daughter, in her late 20s, wanted to guarantee Saddam received a "fair trial" (based on) the principle that all accused should be presumed innocent until proven guilty," said a charity association that heard the news. Several other Libyan lawyers will join Saddam's defense team, which already includes lawyers from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Western countries such as the United States, Britain, France and Belgium, the association said in a statement from its office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli.



In this photo altered at the source, Saddam Hussein is led into a courtroom in chains Thursday at Camp Victory on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Saddam and 11 other defendants, all former members of the ousted Iraqi regime, faced court in Baghdad for the first time Thursday on war crimes and genocide charges. Defense lawyers were not present for the brief arraignment.

PSYOP unit put focus on Iraqis

Los Angeles Times

The U.S. Army's internal study of the war in Iraq criticizes some efforts by its own psychological operations (PSYOP) units, but one spur-of-the-moment effort last year produced the most memorable image of the invasion.

As the Iraqi regime was collapsing on April 9, 2003, U.S. Marines converged on Firdos Square in central Baghdad, site of an enormous statue of Saddam Hussein. It was a Marine colonel — not joyous Iraqi civilians, as was widely assumed from the TV images — who decided to topple the statue, the Army report said. And it was a quick-thinking Army PSYOP team that made it appear to be a spontaneous Iraqi undertaking.

After the colonel selected the



Iraqi civilians and U.S. soldiers pull down a statue of Saddam Hussein in downtown Baghdad, on April 9, 2003. A recent PSYOP's report says the original idea for pulling down the statue came from a U.S. soldier.

statue as a "target of opportunity," the PSYOP team used loudspeakers to encourage Iraqi civilians to assist, according to an account by a PSYOP team member.

But Marines had draped an American flag over the statue's face.

"We didn't want to look like an occupation force," the PSYOP

member wrote. Someone produced an Iraqi flag, and a PSYOP sergeant quickly replaced the American flag. Ultimately, a Marine recovery vehicle toppled the statue with a chain, but the effort appeared to be Iraqi-inspired because the PSYOP team had managed to pack the vehicle with cheering Iraqi children.

Yemen clarifies offer

SANA, Yemen — A senior Yemen government official on Thursday clarified Yemen's offer to send peacekeeping soldiers to Iraq, saying such a move would only come after U.S.-led coalition forces have left the country, a news report said.

"Yemen is willing to participate in an international peacekeeping force ... after the coalition troops withdraw and Iraq regains its full sovereignty, and if the brothers in Iraq ask us to," the unnamed official told the Saba news agency.

On Friday, the Foreign Ministry said Yemen was willing to send peacekeepers to Iraq, but only if they were part of a U.N.-controlled force. It said nothing about coalition troops staying or not.

About 160,000 foreign troops, mostly American, have stayed on since Monday's handover of sovereignty.

On Thursday, Jordan's King Abdullah II said his country might become the first Arab state to send troops to Iraq, if that country asked for help.

From The Associated Press

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 858 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 636 died as a result of hostile action and 222 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 720 U.S. servicemen have died — 527 as a result of hostile action and 193 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A Marine was killed Friday and a second died of wounds suffered in a separate engagement Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Sgt. Kenneth Conde Jr., 23, Orlando, Fla., was killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Sgt. Christopher A. Wagoner, 24, Fairview Heights, Ill., died Thursday in Mosul, Iraq, when his convoy vehicle hit a land mine; assigned to the Army's 10th Aviation Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Army Spc. Robert L. Dusan, 24, Mandeville, La., died Wednesday in Navstar, Iraq, when his vehicle overturned; assigned to the Army's 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.

Talent show in Kuwait highlights troops

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — More than a dozen acts displayed their talents Friday night during the Independence Day Talent Show sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation on Camp Arifjan.

Some sang karaoke, while several musicians played instruments themselves. There was also a poetry reading and several dance troupes that performed.

Medals were given in four categories: non-musical, instrumental, musical and vocals. There was also a trophy given to the top overall performer.

Sgt. Shawn Tucker, 32nd Transportation Company, took first in vocals and was named overall winner. Spc. Chalaire Vicks, 209th Personnel Service Detachment, walked away as the best in the non-musical category with a dramatic interpretation of the poem "Don't Let Him Break You." Dan Kessler was voted the best instrumentalist with his bass guitar plucking. The dance group Tolero — Staff Sgt. Marisabel Contreras Gomez, and Pfc. Margaret Herrera and Joann Perez, all from the 348th Personnel Group — took first in the musical category.

While some contestants performed better than others, several audience members said it took courage to get on stage.

"I give everybody credit for getting up there," said Spc. Jacob Hart, who traveled from Camp Spearhead with Pfc. Jayson Atchison to watch the show. They said they felt bad for one performer,

Kenny, who couldn't remember the words to the 3 Doors Down song "Kryptonite."

Hart and Atchison said their favorite performance came from the Blue Falcon band. Blue Falcon also seemed to be the crowd favorite as some chanted for a recount when it didn't place at all, let alone take top honors.

The Blue Falcon members who performed Friday night were Specs. Dustin Wieting and Nick Benson. They performed an original song titled "That's Right I Said It." They wrote the song with another band member, Spc. Jason Bain, and based it on things they've seen during their 14 months in the Mideast.

"There's just inspiration everywhere," said Benson. "We've seen a lot of guys cheating on their wives, and wives [back home] cheating on them."

Cheating is one topic they covered in the song they performed Friday. Other topics include guys who use the low women-to-men ratio to their advantage, and soldiers who manage to avoid hard work. They also pay tribute to all those who do their jobs the way they're supposed to do them.

"A lot of girls get offended when they hear the song," Wieting said. "They take it to heart."

The band, which has been together for only four months, has several other songs its members have written. Members said they're hoping to record an album so troops here can take their songs home with them.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@stpspies.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Nick Benson, of the 740th Transportation Company, sings "That's Right I Said It" during the Independence Day Talent Show on Friday at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The duo of Benson and Spc. Dustin Wieting was the crowd favorite but didn't win any honors.



Spc. Chalaire Vicks, of the 209th Personnel Service Detachment, performs a dramatic interpretation of the poem "Don't Let Him Break You" during the talent show. Vicks took first place in the non-musical category.

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A man reads from a faded notebook to the woman he regularly visits. His words bring to life the story of a couple who were separated by World War II and reunited years later when their lives have taken different paths. Although her memory has faded, his words give her the chance to relive her turbulent youth and the unforgettable love story they shared.

clip & save

THE NOTEBOOK

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

Adams	26-26 Aug
Arvato	13-19 Aug
Babenhansen	13-19 Aug
Salad	9-15 Jul
Bamberg	16-22 Jul
Saunholder	30 Jul-5 Aug
Billburg	13-19 Aug
Camp Doha	30 Jul-5 Aug
Darmstadt	6-12 Aug
Orsheim	23-29 Jul
Friedberg	26-26 Aug
Giebelstadt	6-12 Aug
Grafenwoehr	16-22 Jul
Hansa	9-15 Jul
Heidelberg	16-22 Jul
Hohenfels	23-29 Jul
Kitzingen	30 Jul-5 Aug
Kosovo	3-9 Sep
Lakenheath	16-22 Jul
Manheim	9-15 Jul
Mildenhall	5-15 Jul
Ramstein Hercules	23-29 Jul
Ramstein Nightingale	16-22 Jul
Rhein Main	30 Jul-5 Aug
Spangdahlem	6-12 Aug
Tafel	26-26 Aug
Vaihingen	23-29 Jul
Vicenza	26-26 Aug
Vilseck	9-15 Jul
Wiesbaden	16-22 Jul
Wuerzburg	5-15 Jul

THE NOTEBOOK

WITH EVERY GREAT LOVE COMES A GREAT STORY

FIRST RUN THEATERS

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

Navy deploys 3 aircraft carriers to Europe

Strike groups participating in Summer Pulse '04 to demonstrate operational abilities

By JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Three aircraft carriers and their escort ships and submarines are sailing in Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic waters this summer as part of the Navy's quick-response exercise Summer Pulse '04.

The goal is to test the Navy's ability to deploy six carrier strike groups, which include the carrier and its escorts, within a 30-day notice and two more strike groups within three months, a Navy news release said.

The exercise started in early June and runs through August. Strike groups operating off Europe are the USS John F. Kennedy, USS Harry S. Truman and USS Enterprise, carrying a total of about 20,000 sailors.

Seven of the Navy's 12 aircraft carriers are away from their home ports this summer on regularly scheduled deployments or are taking part in the exercise.

The Enterprise strike group commander, Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, said that Summer Pulse shows that the Navy can deploy "almost 67 percent of our [carrier strike group] capabilities on a short notice."

"This is a demonstration of the Navy's operational capability and demonstrates our nation's commitment to respond to a potential global crisis," he said.

Enterprise, he said, learned of the Summer Pulse deployment only 30 days before leaving its Norfolk, Va. home port.

Summer Pulse not only tests the strike groups' capability to go to sea, but their ability to deploy away from their home ports for an extended period of time.

Deploying East Coast carrier groups to Europe is "not normal, but not unheard of," McCullough said, because of U.S. participation in NATO exercises.

Of the three carrier groups in the region, only the Kennedy is on a regularly scheduled deployment.

Enterprise's strike group recently joined the British-run Joint Maritime Command exercise off Scotland, a 10-nation, 50-ship exercise that ran June 21 until Thursday.

The Enterprise and Truman strike groups will next be taking part in exercise Medshark/Ma-

Exercise participants

Several U.S. aircraft carriers are at sea for the Navy's Summer Pulse '04 exercise, which runs through August. Those taking part include:

■ USS George Washington, deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

■ USS John C. Stennis, Rim of the Pacific exercise off Hawaii.

■ USS Kitty Hawk, in the western Pacific.

■ USS Ronald Reagan, in the Atlantic, then shifting its home port from Norfolk, Va., to San Diego.

■ USS John F. Kennedy, in the Mediterranean on a scheduled deployment.

■ USS Enterprise, in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic.

■ USS Harry S. Truman, in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic.

— Jason Chudy



AP photos (except McCullough)

Flight deck officer Josh Dittmar of Chantilly, Va., gives the thumbs up Thursday on the flight deck of the USS Harry S. Truman in the Mediterranean. The Truman heads one of seven aircraft-carrier strike groups participating in Summer Pulse '04 exercises, taking place from the Pacific to the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf.



McCullough



Arresting Gear and Crash crew personnel watch as a F/A-18 Hornet lands on the flight deck of the Truman on Thursday. A key goal of the exercises is to show allies and enemies alike the American maritime might can be nimble in many theatres at the same time.

jestic Eagle '04 off Morocco July 11 to 16.

U.S. naval forces will include the Gaeta, Italy-based 6th

erise on the East Coast before deploying to the Mediterranean in late June.

Not all of the ships' time away from home port will be spent at sea. The Truman is spending the July 4th holiday weekend anchored off Naples, Italy. Enterprise crewmembers are spending the weekend in Portsmouth, England; and Kennedy recently completed a port visit to Valletta, Malta.

"We owe them a couple of days to relax," said McCullough.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estrines.osd.mil

Medshark to begin soon

By SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A massive U.S.-led naval exercise off the coast of Morocco this month aims to test the quick response of multinational forces and improve teamwork among allies.

The six-day exercise, dubbed Medshark/Majestic Eagle '04, begins July 11 and includes more than 20 ships and submarines, according to a Navy news release.

Eight U.S. surface ships will participate, including two aircraft carriers, two cruisers, a destroyer and one command ship. Three U.S. submarines and two P-3 Orion patrol aircraft also will be involved. Seven U.S. Air Force aircraft tankers will provide aerial refueling.

Morocco will be host for the exercise, but Spain will provide a base in the Canary Islands and Morón Air Base in southern Spain near Seville. France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom also will be a part of the exercise.

Greek military officials will serve as observers. Vice Adm. Harry Ulrich, commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet and Striking and Support Forces NATO, will command the multinational forces.

Medshark/Majestic Eagle is the final piece of the Navy's Summer Pulse '04 exercise.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estrines.osd.mil

"This is a demonstration of the Navy's operational capability and demonstrates our nation's commitment to respond to a potential global crisis."

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough

USS Enterprise strike group commander

Fleet flagship USS La Salle, and La Maddalena, Sardinia-based USS Emory S. Land. The Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi will also be participating.

The Truman completed an ex-



A crash crew member talks to someone on the flight deck.



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Country singer Danni Leigh performs for troops on Saturday at the community center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. From left, Michael Kelsh, Charlee Tennison, Adam Roach and Mike McKenzie back her up. To celebrate the holiday, Leigh had the audience help her sing "God Bless America." After the mini-concert, the two women signed autographs for the troops. The group will travel to Iraq before heading to Qatar and Djibouti.

U.S. troops celebrate but reflect on holiday

Food, games, fireworks at bases

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

On the surface, it'll seem like any other Fourth of July for U.S. troops and civilians living in Europe. More than two dozen communities in at least seven countries will be host to a variety of Independence Day activities over the weekend, celebrations that will include the regular fare of food, games, music and fireworks.

With the holiday falling on a weekend, a number of military bases opted to stretch their events beyond one day.

But with life in Iraq still at the boiling point and 130,000 U.S. troops in the thick of it, including the 1st Infantry Division, many people will celebrate and reflect at the same time.

"Freedom will definitely have a different meaning this year — definitely," Army 1st Sgt. Rhonda Thomas-Evans said Saturday, shortly after completing a 5-kilometer run at Fliegerhorst Casern near Hanau.

The recreational activities this weekend range from a boxing invitational in Hanau, to a bowling tournament in Schinnen, Netherlands, to a softball game at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

See related stories
on Pages 13-14

*"Freedom will
definitely have
a different
meaning this year
— definitely."*

Army 1st Sgt.
Rhonda Thomas-Evans

In addition, many communities hosted "fun runs" on Saturday.

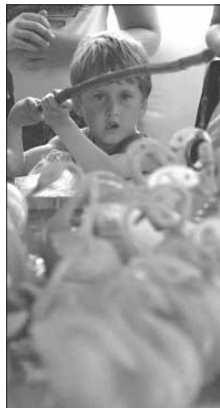
For instance, Thomas-Evans, of the 39th Finance Battalion, was one of 40 runners who turned out for Hanau's footrace.

One of the most unusual events occurred Saturday in Wiesbaden, home of the 1st Armored Division, which is in the process of returning from Iraq.

The annual Patriotic Paws and Pals 5K Fun Run/Walk didn't draw as many humans and hounds as last year, but that didn't matter to a 2-year-old cocker spaniel named Georgia, who took first place in the four-legged category. "She just loves to run," Julie Caldwell, 13, said of her dog after the race.

Across the European theater, the common denominators will be food, drinks and entertainment, whether it's games for the children or music for the adults.

The celebrations range from small gatherings, such as the one planned for the NATO air base in Geilenkirchen, Germany, to huge festive events like the 48th an-



PHOTOS BY KENDRA HELMER/Stars and Stripes

Above: B.J. Lewis, 5, foreground left, and his sister Naomi, 4, enjoy a roller coaster ride with Kira Merrill, 3, background left, and her sister, Sarah Merrill, 6, at an Independence Day celebration on Friday at Carney Park in Naples, Italy.

Left: Meanwhile, Czara Venegas hugs 15-month-old Jayden Lumas, son of Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick and Joanne Lumas, at the Naples celebration.

Right: Five-year-old Kenny Barto concentrates on hooking a plastic swan. He is the son of Lt. Cmdr. Keith and Anne Barto.

nual BASH down the road at Spangdahlem Air Base.

By nightfall Sunday, if a person is in a plane flying overhead, especially in central Germany, he will most certainly see bouquets of fireworks dotting the darkened horizon.

"I think communities will go way out of their way," said 1st Lt. Maria Lindsey, who works with Thomas-Evans.

"People will remember this Fourth of July."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at:
doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



Please let our men and women know how much we appreciate all everyone is doing in keeping our country a safe place to live. There are no words to express the thankfulness that they are willing to do whatever is in their power for our country. A sincere thank you to you all, J. Dishner. Camden, Maine



I just want to give thanks to the many soldiers that are out there fighting for our freedom. I

don't understand how anyone could be against them. I guess your point of view would change if you had to go out and do the job. It upsets me to know that Americans can't support their own. All I can say is that I am proud to be an American and I am so very proud of my husband. May God Bless you all and bring you home

soon. We love and miss you honey. T.Smook. Germany



Hi Joseph, I hope that you are doing well. I just wanted to let you know how much I love you. Loving you today, tomorrow and always, MOM (Maryfrances P. D.)

Coca-Cola contest raising concerns

Military says cans are security issue

BY ELLEN SIMON
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's a new security threat at some of the nation's military bases — and it looks uncannily like a can of Coke.

Specially rigged Coke cans, part of a summer promotion, contain cell phones and global positioning chips. That has caused some installations worried the cans could be used to eavesdrop, and they are instituting protective measures.

Coca-Cola Co. says such concerns are nothing but fizzle.

Mart Martin, a Coca-Cola spokesman, said no one would mistake one of the winning cans from the company's "Unexpected Summer" promotion for a regular Coke.

"The can is dramatically different looking," he said. The cans have a recessed panel on the outside and a big red button. "It's very clear that there's a cell phone device."

Winners activate it by pushing the button, which can only call Coke's prize center, he said. Data from the GPS device can only be received by Coke's prize center. Prizes include cash, a home entertainment center and an SUV.

"It cannot be an eavesdropping device," he said.

Nonetheless, military bases, including the U.S. Army Armor Center at Fort Knox, Ky., are asking soldiers to examine their Coke cans before bringing them in to classified meetings.

"We're asking people to open the cans and not bring it to when there's a GPS in it," said Master Sgt. Jerry Meredith, a Fort Knox spokesman. "It's not like we're examining cans at the store. It's a pretty common-sense thing."

Sue Murphy, a spokeswoman for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, said personal electronic devices aren't permitted in some buildings and conference rooms on base.

"We've taken measures to make sure everyone's aware of this contest and to make sure devices are cleared before they're taken in" to restricted areas, she said.

"In the remote possibility a can was found in one of these areas, we'd make sure the can wasn't activated, try to return it to its original owner and ask that they activate it at home," she said. "It's just another measure we have to take to keep everyone out here safe and secure."

The Marine Corps said all per-



This is a photo provided by the Burson Marsteller agency of a GPS-equipped can of Coca-Cola being used in a prize promotion by the soft drink company. The can has officials at some U.S. installations worried the cans could be used to eavesdrop.

sonnel had been advised of the cans and to keep them away from secure areas.

Paul Saffo, research director at The Institute for the Future, compared the concern about the Coke cans to when the Central Intelligence Agency banned Furbies, the stuffed toys that could repeat phrases.

"There's things generals should stay up late at night worrying about," he said. "A talking Coke can isn't one of them."

Pentagon alerted to trend of criminals in the military

Report says recruiting standards, oversight lax

BY KEN SILVERSTEIN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon was warned repeatedly going back a decade that it was accepting military recruits with criminal histories and was too lenient with those already in uniform who exhibited violent or other troubling behavior.

Six studies prepared over 10 years by an outside expert at the Pentagon's request found that too little was being done to discipline lawbreakers in uniform or even identify problem recruits.

A 1998 study estimated that one-third of military recruits had arrest records. A 1995 report found that one out of four Army career enlisted personnel had committed one or more criminal offenses while on active duty. Yet many were allowed to reenlist or received promotions. Some received good-conduct medals or held top-secret security clearances, the research found.

The 1995 study cited the case of one soldier who was promoted to sergeant despite a record of behavior that included multiple assaults, drunk and disorderly conduct, property destruction and obstruction of justice.

As recently as last year, only a month before some of the worst

abuses of Iraqi detainees occurred at Abu Ghraib prison, one of the reports said some troops were in positions "where destructive acts could have the most serious consequences."

"An immediate problem faced by Defense is that there are military personnel with pre-service and in-service records that clearly establish a pattern of substandard behavior," the 2003 report said.

"These individuals constitute a high-risk group for destructive behavior and need to be identified."

The September 2003 study, titled "Reducing the Threat of Destructive Behavior by Military Personnel" and released to the Los Angeles Times with the Pentagon's permission, was written by E.L.S. Flyer, a former senior analyst at the Defense Department and a longtime Pentagon consultant.

It examined recruiting of active-duty troops and misconduct by uniformed personnel once they entered the armed forces. Military reservists undergo the same screening process as active-duty troops, Flyer said.

Although the Pentagon adopted some new procedures, they were not adequate, Flyer's most recent report said. The military services have resisted improving screen-

ing procedures because that "would reduce applicant supply," the 2003 report said, alluding to problems some services have had in recent years meeting recruitment goals.

"Critically important, development of applicant screening procedures to identify individuals with behavior disorders has lagged, contributing to suitability problems and destructive acts occurring later during active duty," the report said.

Flyer's most recent study said steps needed to be taken to reduce the "wide range of destructive acts committed by military personnel," including sabotage, serial murder and rape.

"One would hope Defense is doing a thorough investigation of their backgrounds," Flyer said.

Curtis Gilroy, who oversees military recruiting as director of the Pentagon's office of accession policy, said the screening process for recruits was "pretty good" but acknowledged some shortcomings.

It is hard to "pick out all the bad apples," Gilroy said, "but we are striving to improve the system and are doing so — from recruiters to the military entrance processing stations to the initial training sites. We are taking screening very seriously and will be more vigilant at all steps of the recruiting and accession process."

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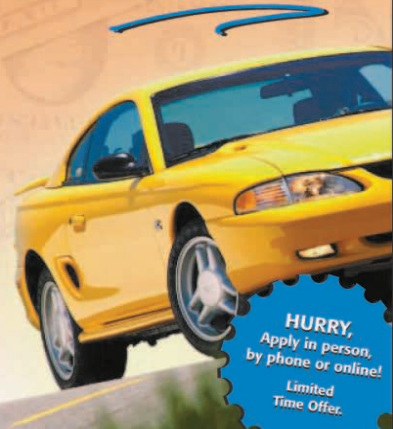
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IN THE WORLD

Paper: Al-Qaida planned glider attack

BY ESRA AYGIN
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish authorities received a warning that al-Qaida was planning to use a bomb-laden glider in a suicide attack targeting world leaders at the NATO summit in Istanbul, the city's police chief was quoted as saying.

In a newspaper interview published Saturday, Istanbul police chief Cemalettin Cerrah said the intelligence came from foreign sources and described such a plot as far-fetched.

"To tell you the truth, we did not find it

very realistic," Cerrah told the daily newspaper *Hurriyet*.

Still, the intelligence was immediately passed on to Turkey's military, which was responsible for ensuring the security of air space over the city during the summit, the police chief said.

A senior police official contacted by The Associated Press on Saturday confirmed Cerrah's statements on condition of anonymity.

According to a tip Cerrah said was received by Turkey's national intelligence service MIT from unspecified foreign sources, Osama bin Laden's terrorist net-

work was planning to use a bomb-laden glider to target a hotel in Istanbul where at least one NATO leader was staying during the June 28-29 summit.

The aircraft was supposed to take off from a neighboring country and approach the city by flying over the Black Sea, Cerrah said.

The police chief did not say in the interview which hotel was supposedly targeted. But the police official who spoke to the AP on Saturday said it was the hotel where President Bush was staying.

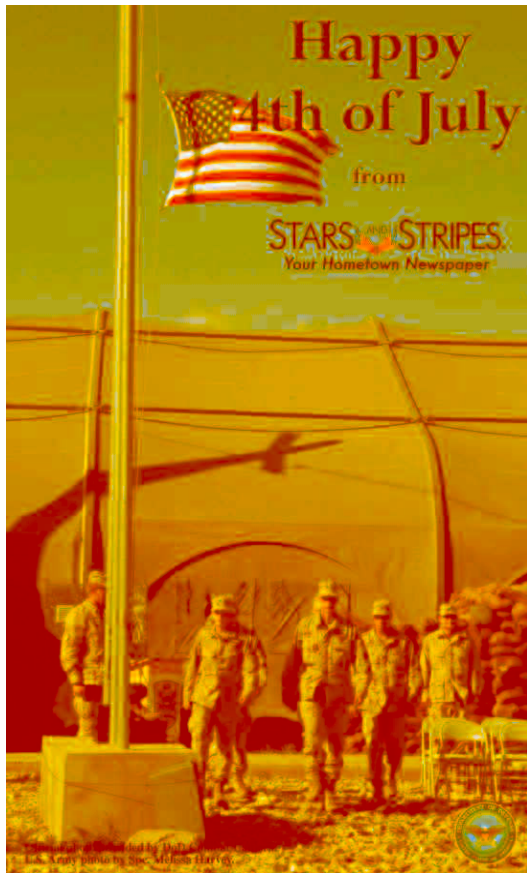
"They had chosen a glider because radar would not spot it," Cerrah told the newspa-

per. "And since it flies without an engine, it would approach the target in silence."

Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Jacques Chirac, and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder were among the world leaders who attended the summit, which took place amid extremely tight security.

More than 23,000 police were mobilized, F-16 warplanes patrolled the skies and AWACS early warning planes dispatched by NATO helped monitor a no-fly zone over Istanbul.

Officials revealed Friday that authorities found and defused explosives at Istanbul's airport during the NATO summit.



An election official takes the thumb impression of an Afghan man for his voter identity card at the voter registration office in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday. The Afghan elections are expected to be delayed to October because of wrangling among political parties.

Afghan elections to be pushed back to October

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's first post-Taliban election will be delayed until October, political parties forecast Saturday, as officials missed the deadline to call a September vote.

President Hamid Karzai wants the presidential and parliamentary elections to stay on schedule, but officials are struggling to register voters and protect them from Taliban attacks and interference from warlords.

Afghanistan's first Western style vote has already been put back from June and despite weeks of consultations between political parties and United Nations and government officials, there's no agreement yet on the election date.

Also, legislation governing par-

ties' access to media and campaign funding has yet to be announced.

"The consultations are still ongoing," said Aykut Tavsel, spokesman for the country's U.N.-sponsored election management body.

Under Afghan law, the polling date must be announced 90 days in advance, which meant that Friday was the last chance to call a Sept. 30 vote although Afghan government officials insist the law has "flexibility."

Jawed Kohistani, a leader of Afghanistan's Freedom and Democracy Party, forecast that the presidential vote, which Karzai is expected to win, will go ahead in October.

But he pleaded for the parliamentary vote to be delayed until next summer because of the failure to disarm warlord militias who control much of the country. So far only about 10,000 of the 40,000 fighters the government pledged to disarm by the end of June have laid down their weapons.

The U.N. says disarmament is crucial to ensure that candidates and voters are not intimidated. Sebhathullah Sanjar, head of the Republican Party of Afghanistan, also forecast a delay until mid-October but said both elections should be held soon.

"No one can assure us that disarmament will be carried out or that security will improve," Sanjar said. "The problems will only increase."

Messages of Support

★ My younger sister is serving in the Persian Gulf and I just want to say thank you to her and everyone else protecting the country I love. God bless you all!!! M. Hentges, Minneapolis, MN

Earthquake kills 18 in eastern Turkey

BY LOUIS MEIXLER
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — An earthquake in a remote, mountainous part of eastern Turkey collapsed dozens of stone and mud-brick homes, killing 18 people, including three sisters and their brother, and injuring 27 others.

The earthquake destroyed 67 homes on Friday in the village of Yigincil, near the Iranian border, the Anatolia news agency reported. Damage also was reported in nearby villages in the same area of Dogubeyazit province.

The Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory said the quake had a magnitude of 5.0. Several aftershocks were reported.

Many of the homes in the village appeared to have been reduced to heaps of stone, mud and wood.

Families in Yigincil could be seen laying their dead relatives on the ground and covering them with what appeared to be blankets taken from houses.

Three-year-old Goncagul Akdag stood with tears streaming down her cheeks in front of a brown blanket that covered her 14-year-old brother and her three older sisters, who ranged in age from 6 to 14.

"We share your pain," Energy Minister Filmi Guler told villagers on behalf

of the government. "Your wounds will be healed soon."

Residents combed through shattered homes looking for survivors.

An elderly woman wept near the bodies of her loved ones.

Local governor Huseyin Yavuzdemir said that many residents leave the village in the summer for mountain pastures, which likely prevented a higher death toll.

Yavuzdemir told Anatolia that rescue operations were completed and the death toll was not expected to rise.

The Turkish Red Crescent, the equivalent of the Red Cross, dispatched two field kitchens along with tents and blankets to the area for people made homeless by the quake.

The Turkish military also rushed supplies, including tents and a field kitchen, to the area, Anatolia reported.

Turkey lies on active fault lines and earthquakes are frequent.

Two massive earthquakes in northwestern Turkey in 1999 killed about 18,000 people.

In March, 10 people were killed in a magnitude 5.1 earthquake that destroyed mud-brick homes in 15 villages in nearby Erzurum.

Most of the dead were children who were asleep when the earthquake struck.



Goncagul Akdag, a three-year-old Turkish girl, weeps next to the bodies of her sister and brother, killed in an earthquake in the village of Yigincil, eastern Turkey, early Friday. A moderate earthquake destroyed stone and mud houses, killed 18 people and injured 27 others.

Dancin' diplomacy



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell performs a version of the Village People's hit disco song "YMCA" at the conclusion of Asia's largest security meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday. Powell took to the stage, dressed as a construction worker, with other unidentified U.S. diplomats to deliver their rendition of the 1970s hit song to an audience of Asia Security meeting delegates.

Serbian official says war crimes fugitive still could surrender

BY JOVANA GEC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Serbia-Montenegro's defense minister said in comments published Saturday that one of the most wanted war crimes fugitives — former Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic — could surrender to the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

The tribunal indicted Mladic in 1995 for genocide and crimes against humanity for ordering the massacre of thousands of Muslim boys and men in Srebrenica in 1995, as well as for the three-year siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. He was charged along with the other most-wanted suspect, Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic.

The tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, repeatedly has urged Belgrade to arrest Mladic, who they say is hiding in Serbia. Authorities say he's not in the country. The arrest and extradition of Mladic have become the key condition for international support for Serbia-Montenegro.

"There is political will to solve the issue" of Mladic, Defense Minister Veljko Blazevic was quoted as saying by daily newspaper Blic. "I would not rule out the possibility that he surrenders."

The Defense Ministry confirmed Davinic's comments to The Associated Press.

Davinic acknowledged that authorities face "problems" in their search for Mladic, but said "a little determination and coordination" is needed to close the case.

The minister said Mladic's appearance in court could benefit other Serb war crimes suspects.

"If Gen. Mladic appeared in The Hague, there is no doubt that the tribunal would allow for the other suspects to be tried here," he was quoted as saying. "But until his case is solved, all other suspects will be sought after."

The tribunal is seeking more than a dozen other Serb war crimes suspects, including four ranking police and army generals who were indicted last year for atrocities committed during the Kosovo war.

In an effort to avert some of the pressure from the tribunal, the authorities launched an extradition procedure for the four generals two days ago. It remained unclear when a handover could take place.

Davinic acknowledged that the extradition of the four is inevitable, saying that Western governments won't tolerate Serbia-Montenegro dragging its feet. Cooperating with the court is "our international obligation," he added.

Italian economy minister resigns

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

ROME — Italy's economy minister resigned Saturday, giving in to demands of a coalition ally whose threatened pull-out would have collapsed Premier Silvio Berlusconi's government and opened the door to early elections Berlusconi fears he might lose.

Giulio Tremonti quit in a showdown over deficit-battling spending cuts that the government must lay out for a critical European Union meeting in Brussels on Monday. State radio reported that Berlusconi might take over the post himself until a new minister could be named.

Tremonti tendered his resignation during a stormy meeting that went into the early hours of Saturday at the premier's residence as Berlusconi worked to keep squabbling coalition partners from bringing down his three-year-old conservative government.

National Alliance, the right-wing party of Deputy Premier Gianfranco Fini, threatened to leave the government if the minister didn't go.

Roberto Calderoli, a leader of another coalition party, the Northern League, indicated after the meeting that Berlusconi made clear to Tremonti there wasn't much choice.

"Faced with the ultimatum, 'either us or Tremonti,'" the premier relayed the resignation request to the minister "to keep the government going," Calderoli said.

Berlusconi recently said he believed his conservative forces would be voted out of power if Italians were to go to the polls now, and Tremonti's resignation was viewed as the price of avoiding early elections.

Seizing on the coalition's woes, the center-left opposition demanded the government's resignation. But the premier's spokesman, Paolo Bonaiuti, called that demand "irresponsible" and said the government would last its five-year term.

Tremonti's departure "was painful but inevitable," Agriculture Minister Giulio Andreotti, of the National Alliance, told La Repubblica daily, adding that his party demanded more say in economic policy.

Both the Northern League, and a small party of Christian Democrats who are in the coalition, also have been grumbling allies. Berlusconi's first government, in 1994, collapsed when the Northern League pulled out.

IN THE STATES

Sixth dies from shooting at Kansas plant

BY BILL DRAPER

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kansas — A sixth person shot in a rampage at a meatpacking plant died Saturday, and investigators said they still have not determined the gunman's motive.

Authorities identified the shooter as Elijah Brown, 21, who was hired at the ConAgra Foods Inc. plant in September 2003, laid off because of production downturns, and then called back to work a few months ago.

Five people died at the plant Friday, including Brown, who killed himself. The sixth died overnight at a hospital, police said.

Police Chief Ron Miller identified the victims as Lonnie Ellingburg, 46; Travis Nelson, 23; Leonardo Rodriguez, 49; Ardell L. Edwards, 55, the worker who died overnight; and a Mexican national who was not identified.

Two workers were wounded. Miller identified them as Juan Ramirez, 44, and Victor Coggs, whose age wasn't immediately available.

The ConAgra Foods Inc. workers were on break at 5 p.m. Friday when the 10-minute rampage began. More than one weapon was used, Deputy Police Chief Sam Breshears said.

Plant employee Andre Porter, who encountered the gunman right after hearing the first shot, said the shooter had a conflict with some of the workers earlier

in the week, but did not describe the conflict.

Porter, 38, said he was in the men's locker room when he heard a shot. He said he then saw the shooter and asked, "What are you doing ... shooting fireworks?"

He said the gunman glanced at him, then sprinted out of the locker room. Porter said that's when he noticed the man was carrying a handgun and saw a co-worker lying motionless in the hallway. Shortly after, he heard 10 to 12 shots fired rapidly in the nearby cafeteria.

Porter said he alerted other workers to stay put or get out of the building.

Employees were kept at the plant for hours for interviews with police while friends and family gathered outside, waiting for word.

"Everybody out here is trying to find out if their loved one is a victim or a survivor," said Robert Thompson, whose wife was inside when the shooting took place. Thompson later learned his wife was OK.

The ConAgra plant is in an industrial section of the city.

Workers there process and slice meat for deli and sandwich products, company spokesman Bob McKeon said.

ConAgra is working with police in the investigation, but had no other details, McKeon said in a telephone interview from Omaha, Nebraska, where the company has headquarters.

The plant, which operates 24



AP photos

Families and media wait for information outside a plant in Kansas City, Kan., on Friday. A shooter at a meatpacking plant killed three people and wounded three others Friday afternoon before committing suicide.

hours a day, was to remain closed indefinitely while the shooting was being investigated, she said.

The shooting came a year and a

day after an employee of a manufacturing plant in Jefferson City, Missouri, shot eight people, three fatally, before killing himself in front of the city's police headquarters.



A "no firearms" sign hangs on a light pole outside a meatpacking plant where fatal shootings occurred on Friday.

Bush salutes troops, economy in address

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four months from election day, President Bush is taking credit for a rebounding economy and proclaiming the July 4 Independence

Day weekend as a time to thank the U.S. armed forces for standing strong around the world.

"In Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, they are fighting terrorists that threaten America, and helping to build hopeful, democratic societies where the ideology of terrorism has no place," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "Our nation honors their sacrifice."

America is an example to the world that free people can succeed, he said, citing the rebounding U.S. economy as a means of making sure that all Americans

can "share in the promise of our country."

He noted a government report Friday that 112,000 jobs were created in the United States in June. That number, however, was less than half the 250,000 that economists had predicted. And the U.S. unemployment rate remained at 5.6 percent for a third consecutive month.

"Our strengthening economy is a tribute to millions of American entrepreneurs and workers."

President Bush

hard work and optimism, our nation has overcome recession, terrorist attack, corporate scandals, and the many economic challenges that come in a time of war."

Bush, who is counting on continued employment growth to boost his re-election effort, said his tax relief was driving the recovery.



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U.S. Supreme Court wraps up 2004 session

Term leaves conservatives with little to celebrate

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Antonin Scalia ended the Supreme Court term with some harsh words for his colleagues.

"This court seems incapable of admitting that some matters — any matters — are none of its business," he wrote on the court's final day.

Only fellow conservative Clarence Thomas wrote more dissents than Scalia in the nine-month term that ended this week. In the final days, Scalia complained about a misguided court that "seems to view it as its mission to Make Everything Come Out Right," even with wrong rulings.

In some of his sharpest criticism, Scalia called the court irresponsible in ruling that foreign terror suspects held in Cuba may challenge their treatment

in U.S. courts.

It was one in a line of decisions by the justices this year that found American courts open to lawsuits over such things as international human rights abuses, on-the-job sexual harassment, World War II-era disputes over looted property, claims that states aren't accommodating disabled citizens and allegations of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering in legislative boundary drawing.

Justices also said that U.S. courts and their protections were available to Americans accused by the president of being enemy combatants, another defeat for the Bush administration.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who has generally steered a conservative course for the court, settled for a more moderate year.

"I can't think of a major con-

Some of the key decisions this term

The Associated Press

Some of the Supreme Court's key decisions in the 2004 term:

GUANTANAMO BAY — Ruled 6-3 that 600 foreign-born terror suspects captured abroad and held at a Navy-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have a right to challenge their detention in U.S. courts.

U.S. ENEMY COMBATANTS — Ruled 8-1 that the Bush administration could not indefinitely de-

tain an enemy combatant with no legal rights Yaser Esam Hamdi, a U.S. citizen seized on the Afghanistan battlefield in 2001. In a second case, the court decided 5-4 that accused enemy combatant Jose Padilla should have filed his appeal in federal court in Charleston, S.C., because he is being held at a Navy brig there, rather than in New York.

RELIGION — Decided 7-2 that states don't have to under-

write the religious training of students planning careers in the ministry, a departure from allowing more government support for religion.

DISABILITIES RIGHTS — Decided on a 5-4 vote that disabled people can sue if states ignore a landmark civil rights law that protects their rights, in the case of a paraplegic man who crawled up the steps of a courthouse because there was no elevator for his wheelchair.

servative victory," said John McGinnis, a conservative law professor at Northwestern University. "They may be running out of steam."

Several potential blockbuster cases spluttered, including cases involving religion. Justices ruled narrowly, in a Rehnquist opinion, that states don't have to undermine the religious training of students planning careers in the ministry. Stevens crafted a ruling that dodged a decision on

whether the Pledge of Allegiance and its reference to God in public schools is constitutional. The court found that a California atheist could not challenge the patriotic oath because he did not have legal authority to speak for his 10-year-old daughter.

The justices backed off another case about White House secrecy, leaving for another day the question of whether Vice President Dick Cheney must reveal the inner workings of his energy

task force.

In some instances, the court showed it does not have all the answers. In others, it seemed to say the court will get back to us later. Said Washington lawyer Thomas Goldstein.

In the terrorism cases especially, "what they said is significant, but it's not the whole story. It's like giving people one chapter of a book at a time," Goldstein said.

Need \$14M? Try a lemonade stand

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Boy Scout troop tried to put a dent in a potential \$14 million judgment Friday by selling lemonade — at \$250 a glass.

The federal and state governments earlier this week sued the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts of America to recover costs of the 2002 East Fork fire, allegedly started by Utah Scouts.

"C'mon, we need your help!" shouted one Scout to cars whizzing past during morning rush hour.

Troop 347 of Fruit Heights, a

Utah Boy Scouts offer \$250 cups to help with debt from forest fire

suburb north of Salt Lake City, was not involved in the campout two years ago that officials say precipitated the fire — a fact that the boys pointed out to potential donors — but they still wanted to help their Utah Scouts.

The 12- and 13-year-olds spent two hours hawking lemonade to build up a fund in case the Boy Scouts lose the lawsuit.

But \$14 million is a lot of lemonade, so prices were inflated a bit. A sip cost \$1, a small glass \$3

and, for \$250, folks could get a large — about 16 ounces.

"If only one person in 40 in the entire state of Utah buys a large, it's over," said Scott Fisher, a morning radio disc jockey who helped organize the fund-raising event.

Utah Scouts City attorney Paul Gotay handed the Scouts a \$10 bill for "just a little bit" of lemonade.

Gotay, a criminal defense attorney, said he heard about the stunt on the radio and wanted to come by to support the boys.

"What's more important? Teaching them what they did was wrong by showing them that there's no forgiveness for something they did unintentionally?" he asked. "That's not how the system should work."

They needed more donors like Gotay. After two hours, they had netted only \$643.

"It's just the beginning," Fisher said, calculating that with 210,000 similarly lucrative lemonade sales, the \$14 million would be raised.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that about 20 Boy Scouts ages 11 to 14 were left without adult supervision for a night outside an approved campground. Some of the boys built fires that were left to smolder and spread across more than 14,000 acres, the lawsuit says.

U.S. Attorney Paul Warner said the complaint seeks \$13.3 million for the federal costs of fighting the fire and reclaiming charred land in the Uinta Moun-

"What's more important? Teaching them what they did was wrong by showing them that there's no forgiveness for something they did unintentionally?"

Paul Gotay

Salt Lake City attorney

tains. The state is asking more than \$600,000 for its firefighting expenses.

The Great Salt Lake Council has told state officials it has more than enough insurance to cover the costs, said Assistant Attorney General Mike Johnson.

The fire started June 28, 2002, inside or near the East Fork of the Bear River Boy Scout Camp, about 35 miles south of Evanston, Wyo. It blackened 14,200 acres of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and caused an estimated \$150,000 in damage within the Scout camp to 12 camping sites, a rifle range, climbing towers, some latrines and several thousand feet of water lines.

Flames forced evacuation of the Scout camp, nearby campgrounds and summer homes, and prompted officials to close most of the north slope of the Uinta Mountains to the public.

The Boy Scouts have not admitted responsibility for the fire.

VP decision online

CLOQUET, Minn. — Democrat John Kerry plans to announce his vice presidential running mate in an e-mail to the 1 million subscribers to his campaign Web site.

But he didn't say when. Kerry is expected to make the announcement before the July 26-29 Democratic National Convention. Typically, a presidential candidate announces a running mate at a carefully crafted event.

But Kerry told KSTP, an ABC affiliate in Minneapolis, that his Web site would be the first choice.

"The folks who are going to learn first about my choice are going to be the people on JohnKerry.com," Kerry said.

"They're the people who've helped carry this campaign," Kerry said. "I want to thank them."

North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Florida Sen. Bob Graham and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack have been mentioned as possible running mates.

Mega Millionaire

ATLANTA — A single winning ticket in a \$290 million multistate lottery drawing was sold in Massachusetts, officials said.

The ticket for the Mega Millions lottery was sold at Powers Wine Co. in Lowell, 30 miles north of Boston, said Mary Driscoll, a supervisor in the Massachusetts state lottery's computer room. Store manager Jay Patel said he got the news Saturday morning in a call from lottery officials.

"Oh, man. I'm too excited for this," Patel said. "I can't believe it, at first."

He said he didn't know the winner's identity.

From The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ Dear Soldiers, I hope you do not feel lonely in the horrible state of war. You are very brave patriotic people and hope luck comes to your blessed soul. You are sacrificing yourself for your children, for your country. You should be honored. With Love and Luck, C. Moroney

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A patriotic playlist for July 4

Even your boombox needs a holiday

BY SEAN PICCOLI

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Living in America means a steady diet of songs about America, a select few of which we memorize at school auditoriums or with hand on heart at the ballpark, and pass down through repetition.

The rest reach us through less civic channels.

But many of these popular songs aim to be as enduring as any of the big five: "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)," "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America," and "This Land Is Your Land."

The list of the nation's would-be pop laureates runs to dozens, if not hundreds, just counting from the middle of the 20th century onward.

The impulse to capture America affects, or afflicts, performers of all kinds. It unites Lee Greenwald ("God Bless the USA") and Public Enemy ("Fight the Power"), Neil Diamond ("America") and Toby Keith ("American Soldier"), Elvis Presley ("An American Trilogy") and Rage Against the Machine ("Sleep Now in the Fire").

British rocker Morrissey, who lives in Los Angeles, opens his new album with an expat's ambivalent nod, "America Is Not the World."

"Our belly's too big," he says to his adopted homeland. "And I

love you," he finally admits.

So stick to your Fourth of July party mix, and consider it a guide to finding other America-worthy songs.

These can be anecdotal or symbolic. They don't need to have "America" in the title. And look beyond the indisputable greats: There are lesser-known songs that celebrate the country as robustly as old standbys, well-known songs that evoke America without naming it, and songs that show a more complex America.

Here are candidates for a potential roster that is far from complete.

"Lawyers in Love" (1983), Jackson Browne: Take this witty, referential mix of twang and doo-wop over Browne's solemn 1986 anthem, "For America."

"The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" (1969), The Band: Robbie Robertson, a Canadian, wrote this haunting ode to the South's long memory.

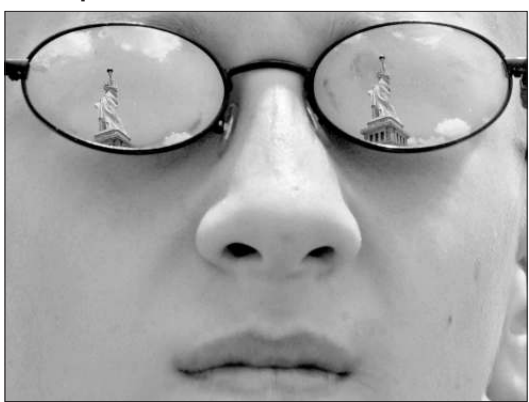
"Everyday People" (1968), Sly & the Family Stone: A leisurely soak in the melting pot.

"Strawberry Wine" (1995), Deana Carter: In an American summer-break ritual, a girl encounters her first love, first drink and, well, you can guess the rest.

"Duty Free" (2001), The Reillys: Here's a great escape song for anyone who gets overwhelmed by the country that has everything.

"South Bronx" (1987), Boogie Down Productions: This borough shout-out helped establish local

Almost open



The Statue of Liberty is reflected in sunglasses worn by Jason Wilson of Bellefontaine, Ohio, as he visits Liberty Island in Jersey City, N.J. An elaborate Fourth of July fireworks display near the Statue of Liberty will herald the reopening later this summer of the statue's six-story pedestal to the public for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

as a big part of rapper identity.

"Expressway to Your Heart" (1967), Soul Survivors: Only in America does this metaphor fly. See also "Freeway of Love" (1985) by Aretha Franklin.

"Pensacola" (1995), Joan Osborne: In the tradition of Johnny Cash, Osborne depicts economic and emotional struggle with intensity and regional flair.

"Rock & Roll High School" (1981), Ramones: American invented teenagers, and few bands were better at teenage longing.

"Amerikkka's Most Wanted"

(1990), Ice Cube: The inner-city gangsta threatens to pay an unfriendly visit to the suburbs. Hide your kids.

"Free Fallin'" (1989), Tom Petty: "American Girl" is the obvious choice, but this one is just as evocative.

"Tangled Up in Blue" (1975), Bob Dylan: Boy loses girl, but can't shed the memories as he runs from town to town.

"Rosalia (Come Out Tonight)" (1973), Bruce Springsteen: Again, there are more obvious choices, but the air of giddy possibility

here feels wholly American.

"Young Americans" (1975), David Bowie: Before he was afraid of Americans.

"Dirt Track Date" (1996), Southern Culture on the Skids: A guide all Americans can use for entertaining on a budget.

"All Just to Get to You" (1995), Jody Grey: Every song on the Texas country-rocker's "Letter to Lando" album is a Southwestern gem, but this one stands out.

"Back in the U.S.A." (1959), Chuck Berry: One of the first rock 'n' roll songs praising America.

No rockets' red glare in some parts of U.S.

BY ANGIE WAGNER

The Associated Press

Extreme drought and wildfire risks across the West are taking the kaboom out of some backyard Fourth of July celebrations, with communities restricting or banning the sale and use of fireworks.

But officials say Independence Day need not be boomless.

Instead, they are encouraging people to watch large municipal fireworks displays. Santa Fe, N.M., banned the use of fireworks and asked stores to voluntarily stop selling them. The city fireworks show is still scheduled.

"We feel that it's important to curtail people from doing their own shows," said Santa Fe Fire Marshal Ted Bolleter.

Fire risk prompted Albuquerque, N.M., to ban fireworks from wildland areas in the city. Cedar City, Utah, residents are only allowed to ignite fireworks in the parking lots of a park and two high schools.

Meanwhile, the anticipated influx of people into campgrounds and national forests on the holiday weekend is stirring anxiety among land managers.

"We are concerned about the Fourth of July weekend because of campers and fireworks. We always have a bunch of grassfires and stuff from that," said David Widmark, spokesman for the Northwest Inter-

agency Coordination Center in Portland, Ore.

In Las Vegas, police planned to stop vehicles heading to Mount Charleston this weekend to make sure fireworks aren't brought into the popular recreation area, part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

"There's some people who just absolutely believe fireworks won't hurt the forest," said Sgt. Rory Tuggle. "It's dry up on the mountain. There's very little water. The wind's been blowing. The vegetation's pretty dehydrated."

Having fireworks or using them in a national forest carries a fine of up to \$5,000 and six months in jail. Many areas of the West have enjoyed an unexpectedly wet spell in the midst of the long drought, but temperatures are expected to rise and dry weather to return this week, said Nancy Lull, spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

"That's going to mean increased risk of fire starts. We would ask that people be extremely careful when they're out in the wildlands to make sure they don't accidentally start any fires," she said.

Still, Laramie County in Wyoming rescinded a fireworks ban because of the wet, cool weather. Neighboring Albany County dropped plans for fire restrictions. "With the rain we've had the last couple

of weeks, our immediate fire danger is probably down substantially from where it was," said Bill Crapper, Wyoming state firefighter.

Fireworks are banned altogether in some places in the West.

Communities that do allow fireworks, such as Las Vegas, usually only sell the "safe and sane" kind that don't include rockets, firecrackers and Roman candles. Officials restrict where fireworks are allowed.

Taking the bang out of Sunday's celebration has unplanned consequences in some places.

In tiny Norla, Alaska, money from the annual Gorilla Fireworks stand is supposed to help pay electricity bills at the town of 1,600 people just south of Fairbanks. A fire northeast of Fairbanks has tripled in size in recent days, growing to more than 215,000 acres.

This holiday, the state fire marshal's office temporarily banned fireworks in the town of 1,600 people just south of Fairbanks. A fire northeast of Fairbanks has tripled in size in recent days, growing to more than 215,000 acres. North Pole Christian School has held its fireworks fund-raiser for the last 13 years. This is the first year an outright ban has forced it to close its stand, said Rochelle Renner, a teacher whose three children attend the school.

"I can understand it," Renner said of the ban. "I don't like it."



Leland Pritchard shows four models of "Exploding Terrorist Heads" fireworks, on sale in Plattsmouth, Neb., on Tuesday.

Blasting terror

The Associated Press

PLATTSMOUTH, Nebraska — Some Americans plan to get a bang out of the U.S. Independence Day holiday by blowing Osama bin Laden's head off.

The bin Laden Noggin, a cone-shaped pyrotechnic device with a cartoon of bin Laden's face, has been a hot seller at some fireworks stores around the country.

When lit, the bin Laden cone erupts in red flames, screeches and his head blows off. The Exploding Terrorists' Heads four-pack also includes Saddam Hussein, Yasser Arafat and Moammar Gadhafi. The fireworks are made in China.

So you think you know the Fourth of July?

BY ERIN WALSH

Special to the *Stanford Advocate*

In between the barbecues and the fireworks, take some time to test your knowledge with our Fourth of July quiz.

1. Although the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, the actual vote was taken on July 2. Which colony abstained from that vote?

- A. Connecticut
- B. Massachusetts
- C. New York
- D. Delaware

2. In what year was the last signature — Thomas McKean's — put on the declaration?

- A. 1776
- B. 1777
- C. 1780
- D. 1800

3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Second Continental Congress in:

- A. New York
- B. Boston
- C. Hartford
- D. Philadelphia

4. The Declaration of Independence accused the King Of England of, among other things,

More nation news on Page 21

being a tyrant. Who was the King?

- A. Henry VIII
- B. William II
- C. George III
- D. George I

5. Where did fireworks originate?

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. China
- D. Brazil

6. The celebration of Independence Day was originally modeled on that of:

- A. The King's Birthday
- B. Chinese New Year
- C. St. Patrick's Day
- D. Christmas

7. Match Second Continental Congress delegate to home state:

- A. Roger Sherman
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. William Ellery
- D. Josiah Bartlett
- E. Benjamin Harrison
- F. Button Gwinnett

States:

- a. New Hampshire



Zachary Helm, 3, waves a U.S. flag high as he says "Happy birthday, America" while taking part in the My Little People Day Care Center's Independence Day parade on Thursday evening near Elizabethtown, Ky.

- b. Georgia
- c. Virginia
- d. Connecticut
- e. Rhode Island
- f. Pennsylvania

Other famous July Fourths

8. On July 4, 1591, the oppressive laws by which the Huguenots or Protestants were being persecuted were revoked by an edict of Henry IV of:

- A. England
- B. Russia
- C. France
- D. Egypt

9. On July 4, 1826, two former presidents died: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. What else did they have in common:

- A. They were both from North Carolina.
- B. They were both signers of the Declaration of Independence.
- C. They both had wives named Abigail.
- D. They both attended Harvard.

10. On July 4, 1828, the cornerstone of the first railroad in America was laid. It was called:

- A. Baltimore and Ohio
- B. Short Line
- C. Missouri Pacific
- D. Pennsylvania

11. On July 4, 1831, the third former president to die on July 4 passed away. He was:

- A. James Monroe
- B. James Madison
- C. Andrew Jackson
- D. Richard Nixon

12. On July 4, 1880, which country presented the United States with the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World?

- A. England
- B. Spain
- C. Greece
- D. France

13. The town of Vicksburg, Miss., would not celebrate Independence Day for 81 years because on July 4, 1863, this Confederate General surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Vicksburg:

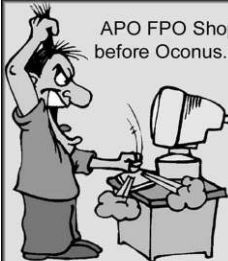
- A. Sherman
- B. Lee
- C. Pemberton
- D. Patton

Sources — The Encyclopedia Britannica Online, www.britannica.com, and Famous Fourth, from Leslie's Weekly as reprinted in The Advocate June 17, 1904.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. D
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. E
- 7. A
- 8. C
- 9. B
- 10. A
- 11. D
- 12. D
- 13. C

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Sunday Horoscope

This Independence Day, Mercury, the planet of communication and travel, has begun an excursion of his own through the creative realm of Leo. This energy is channeled through top-notch performances of all kinds. Immediately, communication takes on new fire. You expect some high-tech and bigger-than-life fireworks displays, too!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 4). Be sure you're spending the bulk of your time this year doing what you truly love! Energy is abundant when that's the case. Business thrives when you take family advice or include family in some way. Your romantic life is being built, and turns through the fall, making the right relationship much closer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're the hub of the activities, as you know how to celebrate in a way that attracts a crowd. Networking on downtime gets you ahead; just keep finding something genuinely interesting in others instead of pushing your own cause.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Though you're truly independent, you're also wise enough to realize the value of the rules you've written to protect you, and you'd be foolish not to follow them. Lots of creative fun is in store if you make it your priority.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

For your pride and joy, but at the same time, it is driving you crazy. Temper time together with time apart, and you'll remain sane. Tonight, you're in the mood to play and be as free as a child.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

A solo mission this morning is an adventure — you'll be relaying the story to your family and friends later. Love relationship thrives if you are prepared to make a few course corrections along the way. Remain flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Chemistry is critical to your relationships now, love and otherwise. If it's not clicking, there could be an elemental incompatibility. But when it's right, you feel like together you can rule the world. Enjoy fireworks with a

sweetheart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Optimistic stars help you see the bright side, which outshines the rest. Try the clever idea that comes to mind. Hunches lead to extraordinary results. No matter how long it takes, a romantic involvement is worth the expenditure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You take charge, sensing feeling like a follower only limits your energy. Your special talent or service is much appreciated by everyone who is privileged enough to enjoy it. Be conscious of unspoken obligations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Loved ones want so much to please you.

Little things mean more because you are super-aware. When you pay close attention, you can predict the future. You're the special monitor in your group and the designated driver.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

There is no shortage of ideas about how to have fun. Challenge conventional attitudes; your fresh thoughts are needed. You shine in the eyes of family and friends. Now, what must you do to impress your cause?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're in an unusually dreamy mood. If you've been wondering endlessly where a relationship is going, you may keep on wondering aimlessly until you're able to take to ask. First impressions are reliable; let instinct rule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Most of the day is spent preparing for friends, socializing and cleaning up the subsequent mess.

Make sleep a priority, and you have more energy and stamina. If there is a legitimate short cut, you will find it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Best intentions between friends are not enough. Action and follow-through count.

You don't have to do a thing in romantic matters — everything comes to you. Heads turn when you make an entrance at a popular hot spot.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



As we celebrate our freedom, don't forget deployed troops

Dear Readers: Today

marks the 228th year since the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

The resolution for the Declaration was introduced June 7, 1776, by Richard Henry Lee.

Do you know who seconded the motion? John Adams — who would later become our second U.S. president.

Any idea how many states he was president of? (I confess, I had to call the public library to find out.) There were only 16 when John Adams took office.

Do you know who wrote our Declaration of Independence? A committee, of five. Thomas Jefferson is credited with writing most of it, assisted by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman.

And was it enthusiastically adopted? Heck, no! The Congress "suggested" a number of changes — and you can imagine how poor Jefferson felt about that. (About the same as any author who has to report to an editor.) Do you care to know how many changes were made by the "twinklers"? Eighty-six. (It makes one wonder if that's

where the term "eighty-six" — slang for someone or something ejected or rejected — originated.) The Lee-Adams Resolution of Independence was adopted on July 2, 1776. The Declaration, which gives the details of the

resolution, was adopted on the evening of July 4.

So why don't we celebrate on July 2? Beats me — Happy Fourth of July one and all! Readers, as you and I celebrate our freedom, won and secured by members of our military over the years, let's remember our troops in Iraq and around the world who risk their safety every day on our behalf.

Send messages of appreciation and support via www.OperationDearAbby.net.

Trust me, they will be received with gratitude.

Dear Abby: What's wrong

with men that they don't have the energy to pick up a phone when they're going to be late and let their wives (or girlfriends) know? After an hour, we get anxious; after two, we get worried.

After three hours had passed with no word from my husband,

I called the police. They assured me that there had been no accidents in the area. I considered asking them if they would be willing to arrest my husband for causing so much worry and making me look like such a fool for having called them.

We women are equal to blame. As soon as we find out that everything's OK, our hearts melt with relief and we forgive them on the spot. I need to know how to stay angry long enough to let my husband know that is unacceptable behavior. Hello! There are pay phones all over the place.

You men can let us know what's going on at any time.

— Karen in Lily Dale, N.Y.

Dear Karen: I don't blame you for being miffed. That anger is a long time to wonder if a loved one is dead, injured or simply inconsiderate.

I have another idea. Rather than "staying angry," give your darling a cell phone. Then if he's more than a half-hour late, instead of calling the police, call HIM.

Letters for this column — with name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #940, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.opratt.com/dearabby>. Please use the e-mail address.

If you're an American, you'll appreciate this list on July 4

Dear Readers: Today is

Independence Day in the United States.

Although there is no hard historical evidence, we generally credit Betsy Ross with sewing the first American flag with the stars-and-stripes design. (Her real name was Elizabeth Griscom Ross.) However, a professional Baltimore flagmaker, Mary Young Pickersill, sewed the large flag that flew over Fort Mifflin during the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Her flag now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Here's more Americana — One of our readers sent us this list, written by Mark Rosenfield. You can check out the full list, and additional lists about other countries, at his Web site, www.completelists.com.

If you're American ...

You believe deep down in the First Amendment.

You know how baseball, basketball and American football are played.

On the other hand (and unless you're under 20, you don't say that much) you occur to you count yourself fortunate if you get three weeks of vacation a year.

You think of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc., as cheap food.

You probably own a telephone and a TV. Your place is heated in the winter and has its own bathroom. You do your laundry in a machine.

You don't kill your own food.

A bathroom may not have a bathtub in it, but it certainly has a toilet.

You expect, as a matter of course, that the phones will work.

Getting a new phone is routine.

You'd respect someone who speaks French, German or Japanese, but you very likely don't yourself speak them well enough to communicate.

You think a tax level of 30 percent is scandalously high.

A hotel room has a private bath.

You seriously expect to be able to transact business or deal with the government without paying bribes.

You count on excellent medical treatment. You know you're not going to die of cholera or other Third World diseases. You think dying at 65 would be a tragedy.

You're used to a wide variety of choices for almost any

thing you buy.

You still measure things in feet, pounds and gallons.

You stop at red lights even if nobody's around.

You don't care very much what family someone comes from.

You think of opera and ballet as rather elite entertainments.

You'd be hard-pressed to name the capitals or the leaders of all the nations of Europe.

You've left a message at the beep.

If you have an appointment, you'll mutter an excuse if you're five minutes late, and apologize profusely if it's 10 minutes. An hour late is almost inexcusable.

If you're talking to someone, you get uncomfortable if they approach closer than about 2 feet.

You take a strong court system for granted, even if you don't use it. You know that if you went into business and had problems with a customer, partner or supplier, you could take them to court.

You think most problems could be solved if only people would put aside their prejudices and work together.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime contributors to *Stars and Stripes*. E-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creator's Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

High heels, 'devil to pay'

The word "devil" in the expression "the devil to pay" does not refer to the theological "devil" but to some nautical term. Can you shed any light on this?

We are often told that the expressions "the devil to pay" and "between the devil and the deep (blue) sea" do not refer to Satan, but to a perfectly innocent nautical devil. This "devil" is a seam in a ship's hull, on or below the waterline.

"The devil to pay" is supposed to be a short form for "the devil to pay and no pitch hot." This interpretation depends on a homonym of the verb "pay" which means "to apply pitch."

Unfortunately for the nautical explanation, both expressions are attested much earlier than is the requisite sense of "devil."

We first find "the devil to pay" in a poem written about 1500. The

couplet, rendered in modern English, goes "It would be better to stay at home forever than to serve here to please — or pay the devil." We have no evidence for the longer "the devil to pay and no pitch hot" until 1828.

Between the devil and the deep sea there's at least 1637. Robert Munro, in "His Expedition with the Worcester's Scout Regiment called Mac-Keves Regiment," wrote, "I, with my party, did lie on our poote, as betwixt the devil and the deep sea."

The "devil" in a ship's hull, on the other hand, is first reported in William Henry Smyth's "Sailor's Word-Book: An Alphabetical Dictionary of Nautical Terms," compiled about 1865.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Word Book, P.O. Box 20, Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Annie's Mailbox



You think a tax level of 30 percent is scandalously high.

A hotel room has a private bath.

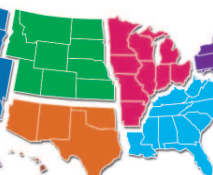
You seriously expect to be able to transact business or deal with the government without paying bribes.

You count on excellent medical treatment. You know you're not going to die of cholera or other Third World diseases. You think dying at 65 would be a tragedy.

You're used to a wide variety of choices for almost any

Hitch rack stays

IL ARTHUR — Horses are the primary mode of transportation for many of the area's 3,500-strong Amish community, and they need a parking place, too. That's why when the village spends \$125,000 to repave a downtown parking lot to make room for 83 cars and three buses near its Visitors Center, the hitch rack will remain. Officials say curiosity about the Amish feed a thriving tourist industry.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hard liquor, hard feelings

OR PORTLAND — The Associated Liquor Stores of Oregon, which represents nearly half of the state's 239 liquor stores, is strongly opposed to a state plan to let a handful of supermarkets in urban areas sell booze on a trial basis, lobbyists for the group testified at a public hearing. The state liquor commission proposed allowing up to six grocery stores in urban areas to sell hard liquor for a two-year test period. The program is intended to increase liquor sales in the state by making purchases more convenient, while still keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors.

Silver lining

ID MULLAN — The operators of the Lucky Friday Mine say a huge vein of silver and high precious metal prices could keep the mine open through at least 2011. Three years ago, the mine was losing nearly \$1 on every ounce of silver mined. Hecia Mining Co. is expected to reach the vein holding 28 million ounces of silver by the end of the year.

Rhode Island name game

RI PROVIDENCE — After 25 years of research, the federal government has decided that the formal name for Aquidneck Island will remain Rhode Island.

The decision from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names resolves a petition filed in 1979 by David Shonting, then a Middletown resident. The former University of Rhode Island oceanographer became intrigued when he went sailing in Newport with some friends, and noticed some nautical charts had labeled Aquidneck Island as "Rhode Island."

Shonting researched the issue, and sent a petition to the board, a branch of the Interior Department. The Providence Journal reported. The agency told him critical reasons for changing a name was "common usage" and "local preference," meaning which name residents and public officials would prefer.

Among those backing the name change were the Aquidneck Indian Council, a Native American advocacy group, and the Newport Historical Society.

Human remains found

GA SAVANNAH — A human skull found when utility workers were digging in downtown Savannah to repair a gas line may have belonged to an old slave burial ground.

Police have sent the skull to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab to determine the age of

the remains. They're treating the find as a fact-finding investigation, said spokesman Bucky Burnsed, who confirmed that the bones appeared to be "very old."

"It's not an active homicide investigation," he said. "Basically we have sent it to the crime lab to figure out what we have here."

Historians believe the skull may have belonged to a colonial Savannah slave. Maps show the work site, outside the Massie Heritage Interpretation Center, used to be a cemetery where slaves may have been buried.

Fire destroys homes

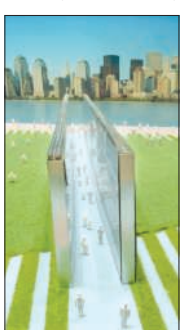
NH SOMERSWORTH — Authorities say a fire that left seven people homeless was suspicious.

The three-alarm fire destroyed about a third of an apartment complex.

Firefighters said it spread quickly after two propane tanks exploded.

Prisons overcrowded

TX AUSTIN — The Texas prison system is near capacity



Across the river

A model on display at a news conference in Newark, N.J., shows the winning design for the New Jersey September 11th Memorial competition. The project, titled "Empty Sky," would be located in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, N.J. Looking toward New York through the project's two stainless steel walls provides a direct view of the location where the World Trade Center stood.

and could become overcrowded by next year, according to a legislative agency report.

Present trends suggest the 150,000-bed prison system will have about 500 more inmates than it can house by late summer 2005 and 5,000 more than it can handle by 2008, the Legislative Budget Board's criminal justice analysis team said.

"It's a wake-up call that our prisons are going to be full in the very near future unless we get smarter about how and why we lock people up in this state," State Sen. John Whitmire, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, said in Thursday's edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Whitmire has called for more flexibility in releasing foreign nationals who could be deported and elderly inmates who are too frail to be considered a threat to public safety.

Hawaii vice fighting ice

HI KAILUA-KONA — The fight against crystal methamphetamine is a work in progress, but the effort is yielding results. Big Island authorities told U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Detective Derrick Diego, West Hawaii Ice Task Force leader, and county Prosecutor Jay Kimura said \$4.4 million in federal funding secured by the senator is being used in a three-pronged effort to combat the drug known as ice — treatment, prevention and enforcement programs.

The goal is to identify, target, disrupt, dismantle and prosecute street level to upper level drug trafficking organizations that primarily promote ice, Diego said.

The county's initiative is becoming a model for other communities facing the same battle, he said.

Flight attendant sorry

TN NASHVILLE — A flight attendant was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly placing a bomb threat on an airplane.

Gay Wilson, 37, was charged with unlawful interference with a flight crew, communicating false information that endangered the safety of an aircraft in flight, and maliciously conveying false information.

The threatening note was left on an American Airlines flight from Dallas-Fort Worth to Boston on May 27, forcing the plane to be diverted to Nashville. Wilson was an off-duty flight attendant for American Airlines riding on the flight.

"I'm sorry," Wilson wrote in a confession, FBI agent Greg Franklin testified in a preliminary hearing last week. "I take full responsibility for my problems. I've never been in trouble in all my life until now."

Tree house fall fatal

NY ALBANY — A 10-year-old girl died after accidentally falling from a tree house with a strap around her neck.

Authorities said Amanda Moon was playing with her cousins in her tree house in East Chatham Friday, when she placed a strap around her neck and fell about six feet.

Amanda's father said she suffered brain damage and died at an Albany hospital.



Just hanging around

Wearing a life jacket, Trek, a 3-year-old Jack Russell terrier, gets a lift from owner Timmy Gossett, crewmember aboard the F/V Laguna Star, a salmon seiner moored in St. Paul Harbor in Kodiak, Alaska.



Teach the world to sing

The new Coca-Cola interactive sign lights up New York's Times Square. The six-story communications portal is made up of 32 convex and concave high definition LED screens containing more than 2 million lights that will be permanently illuminated.



Dirty job

A worker tills the soil on a farm near Hanford, Calif., along Highway 99 through the San Joaquin Valley heartland of the state.



Splish splash Emilio Perez, an interstate road crew employee, heads back to higher ground after checking the drains, which overflowed from accumulated rainfall, causing both lanes of Interstate 35 between Troy and Temple, Texas, to be closed for several hours.



Bikini watching Bargoers enjoy an ocean view on the outdoor deck of Bally's Bikini Beach Bar in Atlantic City, N.J. The bar is one of four beach bars that have sprung up on the sand in recent months.



Skipping stones From left, Courtney Jewett, 13; Ali McKinney, 14; and Liz DeMoe, 14, all of Londonderry, N.H., make their way along a rock jetty at Wallis Sands State Park in Rye, N.H.

Heavy protection

MO SPRINGFIELD — Vice President Dick Cheney's recent appearance at a campaign rally will cost Springfield taxpayers about \$3,000, most of it for police overtime. Cheney spoke last week at a Republican rally at Springfield Exposition Center and then shopped at Bass Pro Shops. The city doesn't plan to bill the Bush-Cheney campaign, officials said.

Coral threatened?

FL KEY WEST — Officials said they will consider adding three types of Florida coral to the U.S. list of threatened and endangered species, making them the first species of coral under review for special protection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to recommend whether to list elkhorn coral, staghorn coral and fused staghorn coral as threatened species. A panel of experts will make the recommendation by March.

They will be the first coral species under review for federal protection, said Jennifer Moore, a NOAA natural resource specialist.

The three kinds of coral have been considered species of special concern — which means they were under watch — since 1999.

Winged migration

VT MONTPELIER — Three monarch butterflies affixed with tiny tags last summer in Vermont have turned up 2,400 miles away in Mexico, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science has confirmed.

The three were the only ones of at least several hundred, probably more than 1,000, monarchs tagged in Vermont last year as part of an effort to track their migration to their wintering grounds in El Rosario, Mexico, said VINS consulting naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer.

"A monarch I held in my hand flew all the way to Mexico," he said. He tagged one in his yard in Plainfield in August, and joined a VINS staff scientist, Kent McFarland, in tagging hundreds more during a day-long demonstration at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee in September.

"This is one of the great natural events in North America, the movement of millions and millions of monarch butterflies south through the continent to Mexico," Pfeiffer said of the annual fall migration.

Waiting for the bats

GA OMAHA — The maternity ward under the Talipahoga Creek bridge is full of ugly babies. With gray, scrawny bodies and pointed ears, the young bats clinging to their upside-down moms can look as monstrous as sci-fi aliens.

But the way Georgia highway officials see it, they're still babies. And until they're big enough to fly off on their own, a project to demolish the bridge will just have to wait.

"I appreciate our animal friends," said Billy Willis, president of Albany's Southern Concrete Construction Co., which had been hired to start the bridge project early last month. "You've got to live and let live."

Just before that work was to

begin, someone noticed the colony of 200 free-tailed bats living in two narrow expansion spaces under the bridge. Biologists confirmed that some of them were pregnant, and the state and the contractor agreed to put the work off until mid-August.

Stealing kisses legal

ID COEUR D'ALENE — Stealing a kiss is not a crime, a jury has decided.

A computer repairman who kissed a customer during a house call was acquitted of battery.

Steven Allen Moyer, 40, said he figured the woman was lonely and might want companionship.

"She said she didn't have a steady boyfriend," Moyer testified. "I asked her if she wanted a boyfriend for 15 minutes."

Victoria Francis said Moyer cornered her, grabbed her and kissed her twice — after hilling her \$20 for the service call. She said Moyer also asked her if she wanted to show him the bedroom.

"He said no and he left," she said. Francis then called police.

The five-man, one-woman jury took 90 minutes to acquit Moyer.

Superintendent charged

MA NORTHAMPTON — Northampton's superintendent of schools has been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon in what police called a domestic dispute.

Police said the weapon involved was a semiautomatic handgun.

Superintendent Michael A. Cosgriff was released on his own recognizance after pleading innocent at his arraignment in Northampton District Court.

He also pleaded innocent to charges of failing to properly secure a shotgun and a rifle. State law requires firearms to be stored in a locked container or have a state-approved trigger lock.

Southampton Police said they were called to Cosgriff's home by a woman. Cosgriff, who had left the home, was arrested two hours later. The identity of the woman was not released.

Felon list order

FL TALLAHASSEE — A judge ordered Florida officials to provide the public with copies of a list of people thought to be felons and facing possible deletion from the voting rolls.

Circuit Court Judge Nikki Ann Clark ruled in favor of CNN and several other media organizations who sued the state Division of Elections seeking access to the list.

Under state law, the list was considered a public record, but the law allowed only certain people and groups, such as political parties, to make copies. Anyone else was allowed to look at the list, but not copy it.

The list contains names of people who may be felons that appear to match the names of registered voters. But state officials who compile it acknowledge the matches are unverified, and many of the people on the list may be eligible to vote. They sent the list of more than 47,000 names to county election supervisors, who are expected to determine who should be removed from the rolls.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Provide for GIs' families

I'm an Air Force brat and was an Air Force wife. I have a son in the Air Force. There has always been a difference between the way an Air Force man and his family are treated and the way an Army man and family are treated. This has been a subject of discussion from one time to another in my home.

These men and women are putting their lives on the line every day and we can't give them the basic comforts because it's too difficult to figure out how to do it.

These fighting men and women don't want or need the Taj Mahal, but adequate, nutritious food and more-hospitable sleeping and living conditions are necessary to the morale of young people from home living a life of stress that few of us will ever know.

Some of our families are on welfare now because of their prolonged presence in the Middle East. No one serving in this war or any war should have to worry about his or her family not having enough money to survive in the richest country in the world while they are fighting that country's war.

And I can see no excuse for our military men, regardless of the branch of service, to be denied basic comforts such as adequate food, lodging and recreation.

Patricia Beech
Flower Mound, Texas

Religious tolerance needed

America is a land of freedom. We cherish the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech.

After reading the article "Army rejects man's tribute to slain" (June 28), I wonder if the Casualty Operations Division and the Army Human Resources Command are aware of these two cherished freedoms.

The article states that the Army told Bob Parker that it would no longer help him distribute his "fallen friend" medal because it included a reference to a Bible verse and that some next of kin may find the inscription offensive.

The Bible verse in question is John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Is the content of the verse the problem?

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorial columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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If it is, then the Department of Defense has wrongly given numerous Medals of Honor to those men in the military who have given their lives for their friends.

Is the quote from the Bible the problem? Year after year, the Bible is the world's best-selling book. If the content of the verse is not objectionable, then the fact that it came from the New Testament should not be either. There is no mention of God in this verse. There is no mention that the saying is attributed to Jesus of Nazareth. The verse does not promote the establishment of religion, but it does value sacrificial love.

The crux of the issue appears to be that somehow this inscription will be offensive to someone who is not a Christian. Recipients are free to choose whether they want to accept the medalion. The medal is not forced on anyone.

We need religious tolerance. Americans value the diversity of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, and opinions. For the Army Human Resources Command to reject a medalion because it contains a verse from the Bible is to, in effect, promote agnosticism or atheism.

Nowhere in the Constitution is found the concept of separation of church and state. The Constitution espouses the freedom of religion, not the freedom from religion.

Let the intended recipients choose whether they wish to have the medalion. The Army Human Resources Command

should not make that choice for them.

Raymond C. Koop
Illesheim, Germany

Comparison 'reprehensible'

In response to "What is Iraq (June 29): While the writer is entitled to an opinion on the current administration and the current president, any comparison between an American president and the likes of dictators such as Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin is not only misguided, but absolutely reprehensible and disgusting.

The vivid definition of evil as being a "hostile invasion and occupation of another country" is intellectual dishonesty to further a political opinion. Any plausible definition of evil must include the element of intent, and the intent of the administration in ridding the world of one of the most despicable dictators in recent years is certainly not characteristically evil, even in the most twisted of anti-administration minds.

Further, the mere use of military force is not evil, as the letter writer implied. The presence of "war and destruction" is sometimes necessary for the betterment of society as a whole. If there is any doubt regarding that statement, merely ask a Holocaust survivor if the destruction wrought by the Allies was necessary. As Edmund Burke so eloquently stated, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Sometimes good men have to resort to violence to end the terror wrought by evil, such as occurred in Iraq. I sincerely doubt that there are many in Iraq who long for the "good of days" of Saddam Hussein and his dictatorship, other than those currently engaged in violent action against innocent Iraqis and coalition forces.

I would also like to remind the writer that on this past Memorial Day we not only honored those who fell in past wars, we also honored those who have fallen in Iraq.

Given the implication that our forces are complicit in an "evil pact" of killing "men, women and children" in Iraq, perhaps that was an intentional omission, but I know that I am not alone in remembering each day the sacrifice of those risking and sacrificing their lives to further freedom for the people of Iraq.

Capt. Andrew W. Rush
Kadena Air Base, Okinawa



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Suspect logic on court ruling The Walla Walla (Wash.) Union-Bulletin

The war on terror does not have to be a war on our civil rights.

Yet, that's exactly what it has become. Last [month] the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Nevada law, which is also on the books in 20 other states, that makes it a crime for people not to identify themselves when asked to do so by police.

The ruling opens the door for Washington, Oregon and other states to enact similar laws in the quest of protecting us from terrorists. Let's hope they don't.

In the end, curbing freedom in the name of preserving freedom just doesn't work. The high court ruled 5-4, in an opinion authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, that questions concerning a suspect's identity are a routine and accepted part of many such police stops. "...

We don't disagree that police can ask "suspects" for their name, nor do we disagree these are dangerous times.

But where we do disagree with the courts is the definition of "suspect." The courts seem to think anybody riding in a car or walking the streets is a suspect because he or she might have done something. ...

In a free society who should be free to walk the streets — or stand next a pickup truck — without having to identify ourselves to police or anybody else.

Cheney should find the energy The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

Vice President Dick Cheney ought to be forthright with the American people and reveal who influenced him in developing the administration's pro-polluter energy policy.

A Supreme Court decision on whether Cheney must make the information public would probably be made before the presidential election. That's too bad. It's suspected that the administration listened only to the energy industry from the beginning, perhaps including Ken Lay, the former Enron chief. The public has the right to know who this administration relied on for critical advice. ...

Ultimately, what comes out could be startling information for those who care about the environment — most of the country, according to polls. It would be better if they had the information before the election.

If there's nothing to hide, the administration should not hesitate to release the details.

Candidate's loss, public's gain Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

In a national leader, character counts. Apparently a large number of Illinoisans agree. Republican Senate nominee Jack Ryan withdrew his candidacy [last month] after polls and fellow politicians said voters would go for a man accused of taking his wife to sex clubs and pressuring her to have public sex.

Ryan denied most of the allegations but did not credit no favors when he misled key Republican leaders into believing no cause for embarrassment would leap from his divorce files.

Ryan largely blamed the media for his withdrawal, alleging it was "out of control." He argued that had he stayed in the race, "a vigorous debate on the issues" likely could not have taken place.

But to a substantial number of voters, character is also an issue, and it deserves particular attention when candidates are sent to politics and less defined by experience than by their (well-funded and crafted) commercial image. ...

I DID NOT
HAVE RELATIONS
WITH THAT WOMAN.



In the end, how to weigh character, and how to define it, is the voter's job. The media's is to inform.

Bush wants warrant a look The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Like the Keystone Cops or the Gang that Couldn't Shoot Straight, the Bush administration has been tripping over its own feet, giving rise to criticism that its defenders cite as some version of a vast left-wing conspiracy. But the truth is that the administration has only itself to blame for the recent brickbats headed its way.

The incidents go back to the arguments the administration used to justify the war in Iraq, but they are more recent as well. The State Department's 180-degree reversal on the number of terror attacks in 2003 made it look like the administration had been trying to falsely claim success in reducing terrorism, while the Justice Department's legalistic defense of torture made the actions inside Abu Ghraib prison look more like policy than insubordination.

The administration insists the undercounting in the April report was caused by a compilation error, and [last month], in an effort to prove that Bush had rejected the use of torture, it unclassified documents regarding interrogation techniques. The protestations of innocence may be legitimate, but the constant repositioning of facts is also consistent with an administration that has been caught in the act.

Not easy to squeeze Cuba The Baltimore Sun

The Bush administration's tough new sanctions against Cuba have given President Fidel Castro yet another opportunity to spew his anti-American rhetoric and stage popular expressions of outrage.

Nothing new there. But when Cuban exiles in Miami question the policy, President Bush has a problem.

The sanctions, which took effect Wednesday, restrict American residents' travel to Cuba to once every three years and the amount of money to be spent there. They limit kinds of gifts that can be received in Cuba and who can receive them. ... The administration has imposed these restrictions in its bullheaded quest to force Castro from office. But let's face it: Forty-four years of sanctions haven't pried Castro from his seat of power.

Toughening sanctions, despite congressional support for lifting the travel ban, is a political ploy for votes in the powerful anti-Castro community in South Florida. Bush and his re-election chiefs, however, may have foolishly miscalculated the benefits of getting together with Castro before the November election.

Barring a Cuban exile from visiting a sick cousin because he doesn't qualify as immediate family under the new policy won't win Bush any votes.

Lost in cyberspace Los Angeles Times

Tucked into the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was a little-known program called the "e-rate," setting up a tax that has cost consumers and phone companies upward of \$2 billion a year. What has that money bought? A rudderless program riddled with fraud and waste.

The e-rate tax is aimed at providing schools and libraries with Internet access. The program, championed by Al Gore when he was vice president, was supposed to help schools allow low-income students to close the "digital divide" and gain new social and economic opportunities. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., began raising questions about it during a hearing on the program six years ago. Since then, its problems have become more apparent. The e-rate fund has distributed \$12 billion over six years, and estimates place the amount wasted in the billions. Because of lack of oversight, it's impossible to know the extent of the losses. ...

The e-rate program will come up for congressional reauthorization next year. Its overall success or failure has never even been measured. Unless the schools and libraries that it was renewed can help make the program accountable, there's not much point in continuing it.

Need to know what drugs do The Washington Post

Should pharmaceutical companies have to reveal the results of clinical trials they conduct on their drugs, even when the results show the drugs to be ineffective? That's the issue behind a discussion that has begun among the editors of the nation's medical journals.

Concerned that drug companies may be

sending them only partial results from their clinical trials, they now want to set up a national registry of clinical trials. ...

At the moment, the law is straightforward: Companies are obliged only to reveal the results of testing they have done on drugs before they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Any subsequent testing, which is usually done to determine if a drug approved for one disease might be effective against another disease, can legally be kept confidential. ...

[I]t would be better, in principle, for more information about drugs to be available to the public in general and to doctors in particular, the American Medical Association recently said that its members feel the same way. But this is a change that has to be made at different levels. Concerned that they are being manipulated by drug companies, medical journal editors are planning to put together a proposal requiring companies to register detailed descriptions of their trials, before agreeing to publish articles based on the final results. ...

Forcing companies to publish results of all trials, as opposed to the fact of their existence, is more complicated, because a simple government regulation requiring publication of all results of all clinical trials might backfire and wind up discouraging companies from conducting any trials at all. For that reason, Congress ... needs to take up this issue again and look at incentives that might persuade companies to conduct more and better clinical trials, even if they aren't commercially advantageous. ... Any system that leads to the concealment or manipulation of research isn't serving doctors, patients or, in the end, even drug companies very well.

SpaceShipOne's private party The Cincinnati Enquirer

[Last month's] remarkable flight by the SpaceShipOne rocket plane, which barely scraped across the arbitrary outer boundary of Earth's atmosphere, may have been a small step for manned spaceflight, but it was one giant leap for the entrepreneurial spirit. It sent a soaring signal that the era of commercial spaceflight offered by private industry may be nearer than we think. And it provided further evidence that while there are many things that government is reluctant to do, matters of efficiency and timely innovation are best left to a free, competitive market.



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STARS AND STRIPES

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Elvis commemoration renews rock debate

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — As far as Elvis Presley songs go, "That's All Right," his very first record, wasn't among his biggest hits.

In fact, the 1954 song wasn't even a hit at all.

Yet on July 5, 50 years to the day after it was recorded, media and fans will converge on Memphis for a blowout celebration to commemorate the song, which has been labeled by the city as the tune that started the musical and cultural phenomenon known as rock 'n' roll.

But while Elvis may be universally known as the King of Rock 'n' Roll, some consider it a stretch to anoint him the creator of a genre that mixed blues, R&B, country and even a bit of swing — musical styles that were around long before Elvis.

"There was a birth way before — where did Elvis get it from?" asked rocker Lenny Kravitz.

"The thing we think of as rock 'n' roll is Elvis," said rock historian Marc Kirkby. "But there were records that would be thought of as rock 'n' roll before that and they were done by black artists."

And not just blacks — or even artists — are credited with starting rock 'n' roll. Just two years ago, there were commemorations of the 50th anniversary of rock 'n'



Elvis Presley

roll pegged to disc jockey Alan Freed's Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland. Some rock historians have claimed the March 21, 1952, show as the first rock concert — the main reason the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was located there.

Other historians point to "Rocket 88," the 1951 hit written by Ike Turner, as the first rock record because of its distorted electric guitar sound. Still others claim Bill Haley's 1954 hits ("We're Gonna Rock Around the Clock" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (the latter a remake of a Big Joe Turner version) helped birth the rock explosion.

And of course, there are those



Sun Studio tour guide Aaron Covington, right, on Wednesday shows off a microphone that was used by Elvis Presley at the studio in Memphis, Tenn. On July 5, 1954, Presley cut "That's All Right" in the studio. Some consider it the birth of rock; many don't.

who say that the blues and swing recordings of black artists from years earlier were rock tunes.

"That's like one of those things that's so contested. I always thought it was when Big Joe Turner did 'Shake, Rattle and Roll,'" said guitarist Vernon Reid, formerly of the rock group Living Colour. "Everyone makes a claim and it's contentious."

Probably only die-hard Elvis fans or music historians are familiar with "That's All Right," a

cover of a blues number by Arthur Crudup. Released in 1954 by the famed Sun Records, then a local blues label in Memphis owned by a relatively unknown Sam Phillips, it was not a national success, but caused a sensation when played on local radio.

Presley's upbeat version, mixing in a bit of country twang, gave the song a different sound. It created a buzz for Presley that eventually caught the attention of RCA Records, which bought out

Elvis' contract a year later. Presley wouldn't get his first pop No. 1 single until 1956 with "Heartbreak Hotel."

When pressed, even folks in Memphis won't go as far as to say "That's All Right" was the definitive date rock was created.

"I think if you look at the annals of history, people look at that date as something that had a dramatic effect on rock 'n' roll," said Kevin Kane, president and CEO of the Memphis convention and visitors bureau.

Even during a tour of Sun Studio, still the tiny structure it was in 1954, the tour guide points to "Rocket 88" — also recorded there before Phillips started Sun Records — as the first rock record.

Sitting in the small gift shop and cafe that serves as a greeting point for visitors — many of them Elvis faithful on their way to Graceland — John Schorr, Sun Studio's owner, acknowledges that.

"I don't think anyone is calling this the very first rock 'n' roll song ever made, but it is the first time rock 'n' roll went global and exploded on the world scene," says Schorr, who purchased Sun more than a decade ago (it remains a recording studio).

"Everyone refers to it as kind of the opening shot of the big bang of rock 'n' roll that occurred in rock 'n' roll, which the other ones hadn't done yet."

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Stars and Stripes reporter Terry Boyd speaks with Servicemembers from Triple Deuce at Firebase Purgatory.

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From left to right, Sgt. Wesley Parkhurst, Spec. Robert Isaacks, Terry Boyd, and Pfc. Michael Greenwood.

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times Central European, AFN: All-time; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Korea; SPT: AFN-Sports; det: delayed; two-hour or 90-minute cut-down. Listings are latest available from AFN and subject to change without notice.)

Television

Baseball — Boston at San Francisco, 10 p.m. Sunday; AFN-A; Oakland at San Francisco, 10 p.m. Sunday; AFN-A; St. Louis Selection Show, Monday, 8 p.m. Monday; SPT; Chicago Cubs, 2 a.m. Monday; SPT; Cincinnati Reds, 2 a.m. Monday; SPT; Colorado at San Francisco, joining in progress at 10 p.m. Sunday; SPT.

Basketball — NBA: Sacramento at Seattle, 10 p.m. Sunday; SPT. **Cycling** — 2004 Tour de France: Preview, 9 p.m. Sunday; SPT. **Women's Open**: 3rd round, 9 p.m. Monday; det; SPT. **Western**: 9 p.m. Monday; det; SPT.

Motorsports — Nextel Cup Pepsi 400, 10 p.m. Sunday; SPT. **Indy**: 12 p.m. Monday; det; SPT. **AWA**: motorsports, 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday; det; SPT. **NASCAR**: ARCA, 6 p.m. Monday; SPT. **NASCAR**: championship, Air Force vs. Harvard, 10 p.m. Sunday; det; PAC. **Soccer** — Canada, women's, 4:30 a.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **Tennis** — Wimbledon: 2004, 3 p.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **Track and field** — Golden Gala, 1 a.m. Sunday; det; SPT.

Radio

(Listings are feeds from AFN in California. Some might not be in all areas.) **San Diego**, 4 a.m. Sunday; Minnesota at Arizona, 10 p.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **White Sox**, 8 p.m. Monday; Cincinnati at Los Angeles, 8 p.m. Monday; det; SPT. **Motorsports** — Nextel Cup Pepsi 400, 10 p.m. Sunday; SPT. **Indy**: 12 p.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **AWA**: motorsports, 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday; det; SPT. **NASCAR**: ARCA, 6 p.m. Monday; SPT. **NASCAR**: championship, Air Force vs. Harvard, 10 p.m. Sunday; det; PAC. **Soccer** — Canada, women's, 4:30 a.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **Tennis** — Wimbledon: 2004, 3 p.m. Sunday; det; SPT. **Track and field** — Golden Gala, 1 a.m. Sunday; det; SPT.

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This time, all the Yankees take a beating

Bruised Jeter back in lineup after dive into grandstands, but can't stop Mets

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

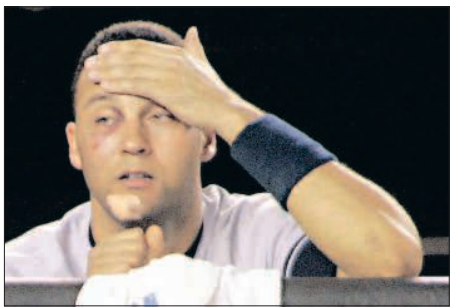
NEW YORK — Kaz Matsui proved there was another shortstop in New York who could spark his team.

Matsui homered twice and drove in five runs as the New York Mets stopped Mike Mussina's eight-game winning streak, roughing up the Yankees 11-2 Friday night in their highest-scoring game this season.

"This kid has had a heck of a career in Japan," Mets manager Art Howe said. "I've seen what he can do when he's going good, and tonight was just a glimpse of that."

Derek Jeter started for the Yankees, a day after a dangerous dive into the stands that sent him to the hospital. The All-Star shortstop came back with a purple welt under his eye, a bandage on his stitched-up chin and a bruised shoulder, and threw himself headfirst into second base on a steal as if nothing had ever happened.

"They killed us tonight," he said. Steve Trachsel (8-6) did not allow an earned run over seven innings in stopping the Yankees' five-game winning streak. Mussina (9-5) left for a pinch-hitter in the sixth with the Mets ahead 7-0.



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, showing the damage from his dive into the stands Thursday night, watches Friday night as the crosstown Mets pound the Yankees.

Neither side attributed the rout to the Yankees' draining, 5-4 victory in 13 innings over Boston on Thursday night.

"You can't use hangover as an excuse. We just didn't play well," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Said Trachsel: "Couldn't tell you what they did in their last three games."

The Mets ended the Subway Series at

2-all this night, and none of the games have been close. Richard Hidalgo homered and added an RBI double, and every Mets starter had a hit and scored.

The sellout crowd of 55,068 was already in an ornery mood after a 42-minute rain delay, during which a group of Broadway performers standing near home plate sang show tunes so loudly they were booed.

But Mets fans soon had a lot to cheer

about. After Jeter made a nifty play in the hole to get Matsui for the second out in the opening inning, Mike Piazza singled just past third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

Cliff Floyd followed with a high fly that left fielder Hideki Matsui dropped on the warning track for an error that scored a run, and Hidalgo doubled for a 2-0 lead.

"It's a tough way to start a big game in a big series," Mussina said. "It was a tough night all around."

Struggling at the plate and in the field for most of the season, Kaz Matsui then took over in establishing highs for homers and RBIs in his rookie year.

"Little by little, I'm able to adjust. But this was just one game," he said through a translator. "I don't think I could say I'm on a hot streak."

Matsui launched a three-run homer in the second inning and hit a two-run shot off Bret Prinz in the sixth. The second drive prompted his first-ever curtain call, in front of fans who recently booed him at home.

Despite the hits and a couple of fine plays in the field, Matsui was not about to act like a superstar. When he crossed the plate after his second homer, he bent down to pick up his own bat and take it back to the dugout.

Matsui said he'd seen Jeter's stellar catch, calling it an "excellent play." Matsui, however, politely declined to compare himself to Jeter.

Trachsel held the Yankees to three hits, and both runs off him were unearned. Gary Sheffield scorched a grounder through third baseman Ty Wigginton's legs for a two-base error and Rodriguez had a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Extra innings mean extra pain for sagging Sox

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Boston Red Sox found another agonizing way to lose in extra innings.

Relief ace Keith Foulke squandered a one-run lead in the 10th inning Friday night and the Atlanta Braves beat the Red Sox 6-3 in the 12th on Nick Green's three-run homer.

One night before, the reeling Red Sox couldn't hold a 4-3 lead in the 13th inning of an epic 5-4 loss at Yankee Stadium.

"It doesn't matter how you lose or how long it takes you to lose, but it's frustrating," Johnny Damon said.

Green hit a tying sacrifice fly off Foulke

Baseball roundup

in the 10th, then homered against Anastacio Martinez (2-1) in the 12th.

Boston, which trails New York by 8½ games in the AL East, has dropped four straight and nine of 12.

"I'll feel sorry for them when they leave here," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said.

Giants 7, Athletics 3: Barry Bonds hit his third homer in three days and Ray Durham homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs for host San Francisco.

Bonds hit his 22nd home run of the year and No. 680 of his career. He sent a 3-2 pitch from Mark Redman (6-5) over the wall in left-center for a solo shot. Bonds has four homers in five days following a 12-game drought.

Orioles 7, Phillies 6 (16): Miguel Tejada's RBI single in the 16th lifted visiting Baltimore out of last place in the AL East with its third straight victory.

Tejada tied it 6-6 with a homer in the seventh.

Eddy Rodriguez (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings for his first major league victory and Daniel Cabrera, usually a starter, finished for his first career save.

Angels 7, Dodgers 3: Aaron Sele (5-0) pitched seven innings, allowing a solo homer by Alex Cora and a two-run shot by Paul Lo Duca of the visiting Dodgers.

Cubs 6, White Sox 2: Carlos Zambrano benefited when umpires reversed a call at Wrigley Field. Zambrano (9-3) allowed a two-run double in the first to Ross Gload. One pitch earlier, he nearly had a grand slam when his drive to right was initially ruled fair, then overturned.

Mark Grudzielanek singled and Corey Patterson doubled in the third off Esteban Loaiza (8-4) before Sammy Sosa hit a go-ahead, two-run single.



Detroit's Alex Sanchez concentrates on putting down a bunt against Colorado on Friday.

Indians 15, Reds 2: Ronnie Belliard hit the first of visiting Cleveland's four homers, clearing the way for Japanese college star Kazuhiro Tadano to win his first start for the Indians.

Tadano (1-0), shunned by Japanese pro teams aware that he had appeared in a gay porn video, got his first keepsake moment in the majors, striking out a career-high 10 in seven innings.

Devil Rays 4, Marlins 2: Aubrey Huff hit his 11th homer and drove in three runs. Huff's two-out, two-run shot off Carl Pavano (9-3) broke a 2-2 tie. Mike Lowell hit his 19th homer for host Florida, which has lost 10 of 14.

Astros 7, Rangers 5: Morgan Ensberg hit a two-run homer in the eighth, his first of the season, and Carlos Beltran had an

RBI in his home debut for the host Astros.

Rockies 9, Tigers 8 (10): Charles Johnson's three-run homer off Ugueth Urbina tied it with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and Colorado scored twice in the 10th to end a five-game losing streak.

Expos 2, Blue Jays 0: At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Liván Hernandez (6-7) pitched a four-hitter for his fourth complete game in the season. Tony Batista drove in two runs.

Padres 7, Royals 5: Phil Nevin homered in consecutive at-bats and Humberto Quintero, Brian Buchanan and Brian Giles also connected for the host Padres.

Cardinals 11, Mariners 2: Woody Williams (6-6) overcame a two-hour rain delay and combined with three relievers on a six-hitter for host St. Louis.



Baltimore third baseman Melvin Mora grabs a pigeon who wandered onto the field before Friday night's game at Philadelphia.

Arizona's sloppy play mars debut of Pedrique

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Rallying from a five-run deficit wasn't quite enough to give Al Pedrique a victory in his debut as Arizona manager.

That season-long Diamondbacks' problem — errors — made the difference.

Danny Bautista bobbled a ball in the outfield, allowing Luis Rivas to score in the ninth inning and give the Twins a 6-5 victory over the Diamondbacks on Friday night.

Minnesota stopped a five-game losing streak and pulled within one game of the first-place Chicago White Sox in the AL Central.

Arizona, last in the NL West, dropped to 29-51.

Pedrique, who managed in the minor leagues for eight seasons before becoming Arizona's third base coach this year, was hired Friday as the Diamondbacks' manager for the rest of the season. Bob Brenly was fired less than three years after leading Arizona to the World Series title.

The Diamondbacks, down 5-0 after three innings, scored five in the fourth.

"I'd say the first two innings I



Arizona interim manager Al Pedrique, right, confers with coach Lorenzo Bundy in the first inning of Friday night's game against the Minnesota Twins. Pedrique replaced Bob Brenly, who was fired earlier in the day.

was pretty nervous," Pedrique said. "But then the team came back, and I really got pumped and I felt much better the rest of the game."

Stephen Randolph (2-2), who had retired seven in a row, walked Rivas with one out in the ninth, then was replaced by Brandon Villafuerte. Pinch-hitter Matthew LeCroy doubled to right-center, and Bautista doubled the ball, allowing Rivas to score.

"It was a tough play. He ran a long way and has got to backland the ball in the gap," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "That's not an easy play, and Luis is one of our faster guys, too. Speed does

that to people. Speed can make you rush things."

It was Minnesota's third earned run of the game.

J.C. Romero (4-1) pitched three scoreless innings, and Joe Nathan threw a scoreless ninth for his 23rd save in 24 chances.

Arizona spent millions to bring a winner in a hurry, and the strategy paid off with the 2001 World Series title. Now the franchise is rebuilding with youth, and that's a big reason Brenly was fired.

The team could get even younger. A handful of veterans remaining on the team might be headed elsewhere as contenders shop for help before the July 31 trade deadline.

"If you're asking whether or not we have a fire sale going on, the answer is no," Jerry Colangelo, the team's chairman and chief executive, said Friday. "We think it would be prudent to listen to what people have to offer because of the position we're in as a franchise."

Any activity probably would come just before the deadline.

"Basically the more we can stockpile, the better it might be," Colangelo said. "But that doesn't mean we'll make any deals."

Steve Finley, Danny Bautista and Roberto Alomar are among the possible trade candidates. Finley can veto any deal but might be willing to go to San Diego, where he keeps his offseason home.

Resurgent Pirates take pair from Milwaukee

By ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — That Brian Giles trade is looking more one-sided every day.

The surprise is it's now favoring the Pittsburgh Pirates, thanks to the rapid development of rookies Jason Bay and Oliver Perez.

Bay had an eight-RBI game for the second time in less than a year and the Pirates ran their winning streak to seven by beating the Milwaukee Brewers 13-2 Friday night for a doubleheader sweep.

Tony Alvarez's strong start supported another grand slam by Perez in the opener, an 8-1 Pirates victory that came after Milwaukee had won five in a row to close within 3½ games of the NL Central lead.

The Pirates are on their best spurt since winning eight in a row from Sept. 1-8, 2000.

Bay, acquired with Perez in the Giles trade with San Diego a year ago, had three two-run doubles and a two-run homer, matching the eight RBIs he had Sept. 19 against the Chicago Cubs.

"Obviously, I thought that would be a fair trade," Bay said. "I didn't think I'd drive in eight again. I'd be lying if I said I didn't think about it (his last at-bat), but I was six or seven bases away when the inning started. I didn't even know if I'd get up."

Manager Lloyd McClendon said, "I never thought I'd see that again, but he had eight again. It's pretty impressive. It's pretty amazing."

Bay's big night included a disputed homer off Jeff Bennett in the seventh. Bay's drive bounced off a fan's hands in the first row of the bleacher seats, and left fielder Geoff Jenkins immediately sought an interference call. The umpires ruled it briefly before signaling home run.

After the game, Milwaukee manager Ned Yost said, "I think they got it right... If the ball is in the park, it's fan interference, but it's over the fence — and Jenks went over the fence — then it's a home run."

Bay had nine RBIs in the doubleheader and is making a push for the NL rookie of the year award with a 299 average, 10 homers and 34 RBIs despite missing the first month of the season after shoulder surgery. His production isn't that far off what Giles is giving the Padres.

"I'm not trying to replace anybody," Bay said. "I'm not trying to match Brian Giles number for number. I'm just trying to do what I can do, and it's nice to see Oliver doing well, too."

Pirates starter Josh Fogt (6-6) won for the sixth time in eight decisions since an 0-4 start, taking a 6-0 lead into the seventh before leaving after Jenkins' 11th homer.

Beckett due back for Monday start vs. Pirates

The Associated Press

MIAMI — World Series MVP Josh Beckett will return from the disabled list and start Monday for the Florida Marlins against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Beckett, who has made just one start since May 30, went on the DL May 31 because of a blister on his right middle finger. He returned from the DL on June 17, but went back on the DL training a back muscle against the Chicago White Sox.

Beckett's back has felt much better in recent days, allowing him to throw consecutive pain-free bullpen sessions.

"I'm jacked up," said Beckett, who is 4-4 with a 3.86 ERA.

The Marlins also made other moves to their rotation Friday. Right-hander A.J. Burnett will start Sunday against Tampa Bay on three days' rest. Burnett threw just 30 pitches Wednesday in Atlanta because of a 75-minute time delay.

With Burnett's start moved up and Beckett back, left-hander Dontrelle Willis' next start will be pushed back to Tuesday in hopes that the extra rest will help him regain his early season form. Willis is 5-5 with a 4.24 ERA since opening the season 3-0. He hasn't made it out of the fifth inning in any of his last three outings.



Briefs

Rolen to have MRI

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis Cardinals third baseman Scott Rolen expects to have an MRI on his sore left knee in the next few days.

The minor injury has bothered him for several weeks, although it hasn't hampered him too much. He leads the majors with 77 RBIs.

"I don't think it's a big deal," Rolen said. "I'll get checked by the doctor. I'll probably get an MRI just to see if it's a problem."

Rolen said running has been difficult. He pulled up lame on one groundout during the last home stand.

"It was an ache and a pain like everybody else in the league and it kind of kept aching and paining," Rolen said. "But I'm going to play today, tomorrow and Sunday and Monday and Tuesday."

Cubs' Hollnsworth on DL

CHICAGO — Todd Hollnsworth, who's been a valuable spot starter, backup and pinch-hitter this season for the Chicago Cubs, was put on the 15-day disabled list Saturday with a bruised right shin.

Hollnsworth fouled a ball off his shin last Sunday against the Chicago White Sox and has been bothered by nerve problems in his right leg.

He was batting 318 with eight homers and 22 RBIs.

Neagle has second operation

DENVER — Colorado Rockies left-hander Denny Neagle had shoulder surgery on Friday, his second operation in less than a year.

Neagle hoped to return this season after having elbow ligament replacement surgery last July 30, but those plans were put on hold after arthroscopic surgery in Cincinnati to repair a labral tear and remove unhealthy tissue from his shoulder.

Neagle has had three mostly disappointing seasons since signing a \$51 million, five-year contract with Colorado in 2001. He went a combined 17-19 his first two years with the Rockies, then was 2-4 with a 7.90 ERA in seven games last season.

Rockies call up Pellow, designate Hocking

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies swapped utility players Friday, calling up Kit Pellow from Triple-A Colorado Springs and designating Denny Hocking for assignment.

Pellow started the season on Colorado's Opening Day roster and hit .258 with a homer and eight RBIs in 39 games before being sent down June 20 when Larry Walker came off the DL.

Pellow played mostly in the outfield in his first stint, but will likely see more time at catcher, his original position.

Hocking signed a minor league contract before the season and made the team out of spring training because of his versatility, but struggled at the plate and in the field. He hit just .202 with no homers and four RBIs in 55 games, and started having trouble throwing to first over the last month.

Miller rests rotator cuff

HOUSTON — Houston pitcher Wade Miller has a frayed right rotator cuff and expects to return after resting it for two weeks.

Miller, placed on the 15-day DL on Wednesday, had an MRI Thursday that confirmed the diagnosis. He was placed on the disabled list after feeling soreness in his shoulder while playing catch before Tuesday's loss to the Chicago Cubs.

"I got some pain in there," Miller said Friday. "I'm going to take a few weeks off, get some rest and hopefully come back better."

Miller is 7-7 with a 3.35 ERA in 15 starts this season.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

Expos 2, Blue Jays 0

East Division	P	GB
New York	1	2
Boston	39	53B
Tampa Bay	38	50B
Florida	44	45B
Toronto	48	43B

Central Division	P	GB
Cleveland	44	55B
Chicago	39	58B
Minnesota	39	50B
St. Louis	47	47B
Kansas City	49	38B

West Division	P	GB
Texas	43	57B
Seattle	41	56B
Anaheim	42	52B
Los Angeles	41	50B

Friday's interleague games	P	GB
Chicago vs. Cleveland	5:38	12B
Montreal vs. Toronto	6:00	16
San Diego vs. Anaheim	6:16	16
N.Y. Mets vs. N.Y. Yankees	7:00	2
San Francisco vs. Oakland	7:00	2

Saturday's interleague games	P	GB
N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets	7:00	2
Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs	7:00	2
Oakland at San Francisco	7:00	2
Seattle at Los Angeles	7:00	2
Tampa Bay at Florida	7:00	2

Sunday's games	P	GB
Boston (Lowe) at Anaheim (Hampton)	2:00	2
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez) at N.Y. Mets (Seo)	4:00	2
Los Angeles (Westbrook) at Cincinnati (Van Pelt)	3:00	2
Toronto (Lilly) at L.A. Montreal (Hill) at St. Louis	3:00	2

Monday's games	P	GB
Baltimore (Ponson) at Philadelphia (Milton)	10:00	2
San Diego (Lincecum) at San Francisco (Williams)	7:00	2
Los Angeles (Soto) at San Diego (Johnson)	7:00	2
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle) at Chicago (Ruch)	4:00	2
Los Angeles (Weaver) at Anaheim (Escobar)	4:00	2

National League

East Division	P	GB
Philadelphia	41	52B
Koekohe	39	50B
St. Louis	39	50B
Cincinnati	41	50B
Milwaukee	41	50B
Houston	41	50B

Central Division	P	GB
St. Louis	42	56B
Chicago	42	55B
Cincinnati	42	55B
Milwaukee	41	55B
Houston	41	55B
St. Louis	42	56B

West Division	P	GB
San Francisco	35	50B
San Diego	42	52B
Los Angeles	40	50B
Colorado	40	50B
Arizona	40	50B

Friday's games	P	GB
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee	7:00	2
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee	7:00	2
San Francisco at Pittsburgh	7:00	2
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh	7:00	2
San Francisco at Pittsburgh	7:00	2

Saturday's games	P	GB
Milwaukee (Capuano) at Pittsburgh (Bumett)	7:00	2

Cubs 6, White Sox 2

East Division	P	GB
Philadelphia	41	52B
Koekohe	39	50B
St. Louis	39	50B
Cincinnati	41	50B
Milwaukee	41	50B
Houston	41	50B

Central Division	P	GB
St. Louis	42	56B
Chicago	42	55B
Cincinnati	42	55B
Milwaukee	41	55B
Houston	41	55B
St. Louis	42	56B

Rockies 9, Tigers 8 (10)

West Division	P	GB
San Francisco	35	50B
San Diego	42	52B
Los Angeles	40	50B
Colorado	40	50B
Arizona	40	50B

Central Division	P	GB
St. Louis	42	56B
Chicago	42	55B
Cincinnati	42	55B
Milwaukee	41	55B
Houston	41	55B
St. Louis	42	56B

East Division	P	GB
Philadelphia	41	52B
Koekohe	39	50B
St. Louis	39	50B
Cincinnati	41	50B
Milwaukee	41	50B
Houston	41	50B

West Division	P	GB
San Francisco	35	50B
San Diego	42	52B
Los Angeles	40	50B
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Saturday's games	P	GB
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Sunday's games	P	GB
Boston (Lowe) at Anaheim (Hampton)	2:00	2
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez) at N.Y. Mets (Seo)	4:00	2
Los Angeles (Westbrook) at Cincinnati (Van Pelt)	3:00	2
Toronto (Lilly) at L.A. Montreal (Hill) at St. Louis	3:00	2

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Thursday's games	P	GB
Baltimore (Ponson) at Philadelphia (Milton)	10:00	2
San Diego (Lincecum) at San Francisco (Williams)	7:00	2
Los Angeles (Soto) at San Diego (Johnson)	7:00	2
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Cardinals 11, Mariners 2

West Division	P	GB
San Francisco	35	50B
San Diego	42	52B
Los Angeles	40	50B
Colorado	40	50B
Arizona	40	50B

Central Division	P	GB
St. Louis	42	56B
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East Division	P	GB
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Los Angeles (Weaver) at Anaheim (Escobar)	4:00	2

Braves 6, Red Sox 3 (12)

East Division	P	GB
Philadelphia	41	52B
Koekohe	39	50B
St. Louis	39	50B
Cincinnati	41	50B
Milwaukee	41	50B
Houston	41	50B

Central Division	P	GB
St. Louis	42	56B
Chicago	42	55B
Cincinnati	42	55B
Milwaukee	41	55B
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Greece's attention now on Euro soccer

The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — The European Championships were supposed to be a minor diversion during Greece's Olympic summer. As the nation prepares for Sunday's Euro 2004 final, soccer is suddenly on everybody's mind.

The wave of enthusiasm and patriotism that has swept over Greece in the past few weeks as its national soccer team kept advancing is a welcome change after months of uncertainty and international criticism over the state of Greece's preparations for the Aug. 13-29 Games.

Installing the roof over the Olympic stadium last month was a major symbolic achievement for Greece. The stunning run of its soccer team to the Euro 2004 final against Portugal has boosted the nation's self-confidence even further.

"All the players and the coach acted as the best ambassadors for the Olympic Games," said Gianna Angelopoulos-Tsakalaki, the president of the Athens organizing committee. "They sent to the whole world an image of a Greece that is united, with discipline and teamwork, of a Greece that does not retreat before adversity, of a Greece that wins."

Many Greeks see the team as a role model for the nation — a tightly knit squad without ego problems, results the only objective.

"There's a good spirit in the team. We all play for each other, we all love each other," said midfielder Stylianos Giannakopoulos, who came on in the semi-

finals and joined the wild celebrations in the field following the 1-0 overtime victory over the Czech Republic.

There were also celebrations in Greece and other countries with sizable Greek communities. The feel-good factor was also evident in the stands of the Dragao Stadium in Porto, filled with thousands of Greek fans who had made the trip on a few days' notice, by far outnumbering the Czechs in the stadium.

The win warmed the hearts of Greeks immigrated all over the world and support was coming in from as far as Australia and New York.

"A win (on Sunday) will be the best imaginable curtain raiser for the Olympics and do wonders for Hellenic pride in Melbourne as well as Athens," the Australian newspaper wrote in an editorial Friday.

Whatever happens on Sunday, enthusiasm will not be dampened in a nation that had never won a game in a major tournament until the start of Euro 2004 three weeks ago.

Apart from beating Portugal in the opener, Greece stunned defending champion France 1-0 last week and the Czechs, the best team in the tournament until Thursday, in the semis.

The win also monopolized coverage on Greece's dozens of private television and radio networks. Even newspapers that usually favor politics over sports — such as the Greek Communist Party daily — splashed the story on their front pages.

"It's Friday and it's Greece-1, Czech Republic-0," the Athens daily Apogevmatini headlined.

Source: BCS officials consider more weight for human polls

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bowl Championship Series officials are considering a proposal in which the media and coaches polls would account for 80 percent of the formula that determines the title game matchup, a BCS source told The Associated Press on Friday.

The BCS is changing its formula, hoping to simplify and improve a system that left college football with two national champions last season.

In one of the latest proposals, the AP media poll and USA Today/ESPN coaches poll would each account for 40 percent of the BCS standings, the source said on condition of anonymity. An average of six or seven computer polls would make up the final 20 percent.

Other formulas are still being considered, the source said, including one that counts the three components (media, coaches and computer rankings) as one-third each.

Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Bigg declined Friday to give details on any of the formulas being considered.

"We are looking at different ways of weighting the elements," he said. "We're still trying to make sure we get all the input we need."

Weiberg has said the BCS plans to put greater emphasis on the human polls and eliminate components such as bonus points for upset wins and strength of schedule.

Rays: GM thinks Piniella doing his best managing in Tampa

RAYS, FROM BACK PAGE

At about \$23 million, Tampa Bay has the lowest payroll in baseball. The team's biggest weakness is starting pitching, and the schedule figures to be an obstacle, too, with 24 games remaining against the Yankees and Red Sox.

"As Lou has said many times, we were as bad as we played early? Absolutely not. Are we as good as what we played lately? Probably not," General Manager Chuck LamMar said. "This is a marathon, not a sprint. Over 162 games, the best teams win in the major leagues."

Since May 20, the Devil Rays have gone 8-2 against division leaders and — at least momentarily — knocked three teams out of first place. In addition, they took two of three games from San Francisco for the Giants' only series loss during a three-week stretch.

Emerging young stars Carl Crawford, Julio Lugo, Jose Cruz Jr., Aubrey Huff and Rocco Baldelli all hit over .300 during the 32-game stretch that righted the season after Tampa went 3-19 from April 25 to May 19.

The bullpen made up for a lack

Sports briefs

The new formulas being studied would also take into account the number of votes a team receives, not just its rank in the polls.

Weiberg said the BCS wants to unveil its new math in about two weeks. The BCS was widely criticized last season when LSU and Southern California finished as co-champs.

The poll was ranked first in both human polls at the end of the regular season, but third in the BCS standings. That left LSU and Oklahoma playing for the BCS title. The coaches were required to vote LSU No. 1 while it won the Sugar Bowl, after USC held on to its top spot in the final AP poll after beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

Missouri says Snyder unintentionally broke rules

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri basketball coach Quin Snyder unintentionally violated NCAA rules, the university said in a formal response to NCAA allegations.

Missouri's response also included a formal denial Snyder's former top assistant gave a player \$250. "There was no specific intent to violate any rules in the men's basketball program," the university said in the more than 150-page response that arrived Thursday at

NCAA headquarters. It was posted Friday on the school's Web site.

The university said it would not challenge the allegations, although it asserted most violations were unintentional, and in all cases qualified as secondary violations, not major ones.

The university added that it had "self-reported" many of the recruiting violations and had already imposed "appropriate, meaningful sanctions," such as making Snyder and current and former basketball staff members sit out recruiting for specified periods.

Missouri agreed "there were occasions when head coach Quin Snyder did not ensure an adequate environment of compliance among his staff."

The university disagreed that the evidence showed Snyder did not reinforce to his staff the importance of adhering to NCAA legislation.

As punishment, Snyder started serving a two-year probationary period on July 1.

Japan's Nida wins WBA minimumweight title

TOKYO — Japan's Yuka Nida won the WBA minimumweight championship Saturday with a unanimous decision over Venezuela's Noel Arambulet, who was stripped of his title a day earlier for failing to make weight.

Nida improved to 16-1-3 with eight knockouts after winning the 105-pound Arambulet belt to 20-3-1 with 10 knockouts.

good six-week stretch doesn't have the Devil Rays "out of the woods."

"I'm not going to sneak up on anybody," he said. "The opposition is going to get tougher. You've got two teams ahead of us who want to keep us there another two teams behind us who want to re-pass us. But put it this way, it's going to be fun."

The Devil Rays finished June on a 26-9 stretch — best in baseball since May 30 — and one game over .500 at 38-37.

And, there is hope — and precedent — for a team staying afloat after a horrendous start.

The 1991 Milwaukee Brewers were 17 under (43-60) on Aug. 3 and finished 83-79. Last year, the Florida Marlins were 33-37 after 70 games and went on to win the World Series.

"We just want to see what we can do," the 22-year-old Crawford said. "Who knows what can happen."

Marlins manager Jack McKeon knows. "Anything can happen in this game. They have a good young club," McKeon said. "The Devil Rays can generate a lot of excitement. Reminds me a little bit of what we did last year."

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When You Can't Call Home

Tonight's Emails

Lakers now must play waiting game

As Krzyzewski ponders job offer, team weighs future of two stars

By TIM BROWN
Los Angeles Times

It was Monday afternoon and some Duke basketball personnel had gathered on a campus court in Durham, N.C.

Mike Krzyzewski entered the gym, according to a witness, and approached the group. The conversation stopped.

"You'll never guess who called," Krzyzewski told them. "Kobe Bryant. He wants me to come coach him."

Three days later, not far from that gym, Krzyzewski sat with Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak discussing the details of an offer to leave Duke for Los Angeles, perhaps to coach Bryant. Krzyzewski, also presently deciding if he wants to be a Lakers.

Bryant's future with the Lakers could be tied to Krzyzewski's decision, which the organization expects shortly, perhaps by the end of the week.

Neither Krzyzewski nor Duke athletic director Joe Allava were in their offices Friday, the day after news broke in Durham the Lakers had come calling.

Krzyzewski was believed to be spending the weekend with his family at a beach home in North Carolina.

As Krzyzewski pondered a future in Los Angeles, and Bryant pondered two franchises in Los Angeles, and Shaquille O'Neal pondered leaving Los Angeles, the Lakers waited. They do not expect

to have a new coach, no matter who it is, in place until the middle of next week, at the earliest. Bryant is expected to meet next week with Clippers officials, including Executive Vice President Andy Roeser, General Manager Elgin Baylor and coach Mike Dunleavy.

Meanwhile, Rudy Tomjanovich sits in Houston, going on two weeks since his interview with Kupchak and owner Jerry Buss, having known all along the Lakers had at least one more call to make.

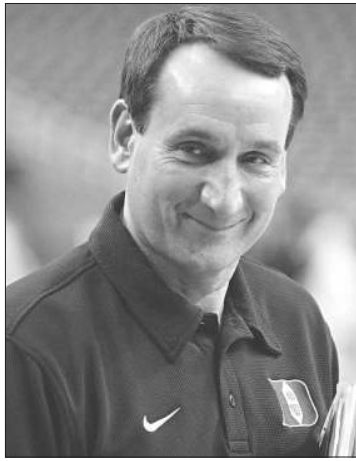
Bryant and Tomjanovich have tried to contact each other, though it is unknown if they have connected.

It would appear Bryant's preference is Krzyzewski, once nearly his college coach.

Tomjanovich would be coming from semi-retirement, a year in which he recovered from bladder cancer, worked his garden and scouted basketball players.

In the days before his interview, he had decided the Lakers would be a good course for him, and his urologist, Dr. Bernard Goldfarb, forwarded examination results that proved Tomjanovich was in good health. Friends of Tomjanovich said Friday he was not put off by the sudden and intense interest in Krzyzewski, and that, either way, the process has been good for him; it told him he was ready to coach again.

Back in Los Angeles after a day spent flying in and out of North



Mike Krzyzewski has won three national titles in 24 seasons at Duke.

Carolina, Kupchak returned to the busy work of O'Neal's trade request, Bryant's free agency and rebuilding a roster that, depending on what happens with O'Neal and Bryant, will need a lot of work or a little.

Laker management assumes Bryant would return if Krzyzewski accepts its offer, assumed to be for \$8 million annually over at least five years. But O'Neal has yet to be traded, another potential condition of Bryant re-signing.

All the while the Clippers, probably not happy the Phoenix Suns spent their money on guard Steve Nash instead of saving it for Bryant and the Dallas Mavericks' weakened their chance to pull O'Neal away from the Lakers.

In the meantime, as the first Laker domino teetered, Duke officials clenched their jaws as they entered a very long weekend. After 621 wins and three national championships in 24 seasons in Durham, Krzyzewski is considering a Lakers offer to take him

away from the hardships of the college game. It also would take him from his three grown daughters and four grandchildren, all of whom reside in Durham, just to sort out the Lakers' mess, and while being recruited by Bryant, who will stand trial for rape in August.

"The Lakers have a lot more they can offer for a coach than other teams and colleges can't match," Duke President Richard Brodhead said from Vermont on Friday. "Coach K is going to have to decide in his heart what's right and best for him."

"I'm going to have to be patient. He'll have his decision when the time is right. He'll know it when he feels it. I think now he needs time and distance to think. Everyone knows the attachment he feels to Duke and to college basketball, but this offer has its temptations."

"The nature of this weekend is to pause. It's my deep hope he will choose to stay at Duke."

Mavericks replenish backcourt

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A day after losing Steve Nash, the Dallas Mavericks secured their new backcourt.

Marquis Daniels, a restricted free agent, agreed Friday to a six-year deal worth roughly \$38 million and top draft pick Devin Harris signed a contract for at least \$7 million over three years.

Harris is coming off a junior season at Wisconsin in which he was chosen the Big Ten player of the year. He also broke the school's season scoring record.

Harris was drafted fifth overall by Washington, then dealt to Dallas with Christian Laettner and Jerry Stackhouse in exchange for Antawn Jamison. Details of his salary, which was limited by the league's rookie scale, were not immediately available, however, last year's scale paid the fifth pick \$2.2 million in his first season.

The Mavs agreed \$22 million to be Nash's backup and eventual replacement. The succession plan was leaked up by Nash's decision Thursday to sign with the Phoenix Suns.

Judge: Releasing transcripts would jeopardize Bryant trial

DENVER — The judge in Kobe Bryant's sexual assault case urged the Colorado Supreme Court on Friday to back up his order barring the media from publishing details from a closed-door hearing.

The judge cited the NBA star's right to a fair trial as well as privacy concerns for his accuser.

"While it is true that the [news media] have a right to report on events of extraordinary importance, they must not be permitted to overcome these most fundamental of personal rights," District Judge Terry Ruckriegle's attorneys wrote in the court filing.

The high court had asked Ruckriegle to justify his threat to block media organizations in contempt if they publish details from a transcript accidentally sent to seven media organizations last week.

The transcripts dealt with attempts by Bryant's attorneys to introduce information about the accuser's sex life and about money she has received under a state victims' compensation program.

None of the organizations has published the contents. The Supreme Court said Ruckriegle's order remains in effect until the question of its legality is resolved.

Center Camby agrees to multiyear deal with Nuggets

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets took care of their top offseason priority, agreeing to terms with a multiyear deal with center Camby.

Played by injury problems for most of his eight-year career, Camby had perhaps his best season last year.

Playing in a career-high 72 games, Camby averaged 8.6 points, 40.1 rebounds and 10.6 shots to help the Nuggets reach the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Flames re-sign LW Simon, pick up forward Ritchie

The Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — The Calgary Flames re-signed left wing Chris Simon and free-agent forward Byron Ritchie on Friday.

Simon had 17 goals and 14 assists and was second in the NHL with 250 penalty minutes in 78 games with the Rangers and Flames last season, coming to Calgary near the trade deadline.

Ritchie, who signed a three-year, \$1.6 million deal, had five goals and six assists in 50 games with the Panthers last season.

He became unrestricted after Florida didn't tender him a qualifying offer.



Blackhawks sign free agents Brown, Barnaby

CHICAGO — The Chicago Blackhawks signed free agents Curtis Brown and Matthew Barnaby on Friday.

Brown split last season between Buffalo and San Jose. The center has appeared in 554 regular-season games, scoring 111 goals and adding 145 assists.

Barnaby, a right winger, played for the New York Rangers and the Colorado Avalanche last

season. He's appeared in 713 regular-season NHL games, scoring 104 goals and adding 161 assists.

Panthers sign third goalie

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Florida Panthers signed free agent goalie Jamie McLennan to a two-year contract Friday with a club option for a third.

A nine-year NHL player, McLennan is the third goalie on the Panthers roster behind starter Roberto Luongo and backup Steve Shields.

McLennan played 26 games with the Calgary Flames last season before he was traded to the New York Rangers on March 6. He posted a 12-9-3 record with a 2.20 goal against average with the

Flames and was 1-3-0 with a 2.96 GAA in four games with the Rangers.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Avalanche sign Lapierre, Laaksonen

DENVER — The Colorado Avalanche signed free agents center Ian Lapierre and left wing Antti Laaksonen to multiyear contracts Friday.

Lapierre played the last eight seasons in Los Angeles. He totaled 10 goals and 22 assists in 62 games last season.

Laaksonen spent the past four seasons with the Minnesota Wild. He had 12 goals and 14 assists last season.

Sharapova stuns Serena for Wimbledon title

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon at age 17 Saturday, defeating two-time defending champion Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4.

Sharapova became the first Russian to win a Wimbledon singles title, and the third-youngest women's champion in history.

After Williams hit a forehand into the net to end the 73-minute match, Sharapova dropped to her knees at the baseline and covered her face with her hands. She raised her arms and walked to the net, where Williams greeted her warmly.

Sharapova pumped her fists, whacked a ball into the stands and climbed into the guest box to hug her father, Yuri. She pulled out a cell phone and tried to call her mother but couldn't get through immediately.

Sharapova accepted the winner's trophy — the Venus Rosewater dish — from the Duke of Kent.

"I want to cut up this trophy and give it to everybody, this whole crowd," she said.

Turning to Williams, Sharapova said, "I have to take this trophy from you for one year. I'm sorry. ... I'm sure we're going to be here one more time and hopefully many more times in other Grand



Maria Sharapova became the first Russian to win a Wimbledon singles title with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over defending champion Serena Williams.

Slams and fight for the trophy. Thank you for giving me a tough match but I'm sorry I had to win today."

On the men's side, defending champion Roger Federer and Andy Roddick each won their semifinal matches Saturday to set up a championship showdown between the top two seeded players.

Sharapova, playing in her first Grand Slam final, put on a virtuoso performance against the six-time Grand Slam winner. She showed no signs of nerves and kept Williams on the defensive, hitting 17 winners and only 11 errors.

"It wasn't my day," a gracious Williams told the Centre Court

crowd. "Maria played a really good match. Congratulations on your first Grand Slam."

Federer needed 29 minutes and four match points to complete a 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (6) win over Sebastian Grosjean, extending his grass-court winning streak to 23 matches.

Roddick beat 20-year-old Mario Ancic, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 to reach his first Wimbledon final and second Grand Slam championship match. He won last year's U.S. Open.

It will be the first Wimbledon men's final between the top two seeded players since 1982.

"I'm excited," Roddick said. "He's the best and I want to go for a match up against him. We're both going to come out firing. I can wait."

Sharapova is the youngest women's champion since Martina Hingis, who was 16 when she won in 1997. The youngest champion was Lottie Dod, who was 15 when she won the 1887 title.

Sharapova halted Williams' bid to become only the third woman in 35 years to win three consecutive titles. She also ended the Williams family's four-year hold on the trophy. Venus Williams won in 2000 and 2001, while Serena beat her older sister in the final the next two years.

Sharapova showed right from the outset that she wasn't intimidated by Williams. She moved her from side to side. She stepped in on short balls and knocked off winners. She mixed searing groundstrokes with topspin lobs. She pumped her fists.

From 1-1, Sharapova won five straight games to win the opening set in 30 minutes. Williams went up a break at 4-2 in the second, but Sharapova broke right back and won the last four games.

Both men's semis had been suspended late Friday after a day of rain delays. Federer had been two games from victory, while Roddick led 6-4, 4-3.

Federer came from 0-4 down in the tiebreaker to close out his match in straight sets.

"I'm very pleased," he said. "It's very difficult to stop at such a moment of the match. I'm very relieved. You never know what happens if he can turn it around."

Roddick, meanwhile, was broken immediately by Ancic and lost the second set. In a match interrupted twice by rain Saturday, Roddick held serve the rest of the way and broke Ancic once in each of the next two sets. Ancic was 2-11 on break points and 0-7 in the last two sets.

Roddick closed out the third set with the help of four consecutive big first serves, including aces of 140 mph and 133 mph.

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Rosales birdies way to Open lead

Filipino holds one-stroke edge on USC alums after second round

BY DONNA TOMMELLE

The Associated Press

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Jennifer Rosales finally figured out how to win on the LPGA Tour. Now she's trying to win the most prestigious women's tournament of all.

Two months after her breakthrough victory in the Chick-fil-A, the 25-year-old Filipino star shot a 4-under 67 on Friday to take the second-round lead in the U.S. Women's Open.

"It gave me confidence I can win out here with some of the top players," Rosales said.

She opened with three straight birdies and closed with a 12-foot birdie putt for a one-stroke lead over fellow University of Southern California alums Candie Kung and Kim Sukil.

Kung and Sukil, the Rochester LPGA winner last week, shot 68s.

Rosales had a 5-under 137 total to top a major championship leaderboard for the second time in a month. She also led after the first round of the LPGA Championship, but couldn't keep up with Annika Sorenstam the rest of the way.

"Hopefully, this weekend will be different," said Rosales, the 1998 NCAA champion.

Sorenstam (68), Carin Koch (67) and Michelle Ellis (69) were two strokes back at 3 under, and Rachel Teske (69) and Moira Dunn (67) followed at 2 under on the Orchards Golf Club course.

No one had a wilder time Friday than 14-year-old Michelle Wie.

She hit a spectator with her tee shot on No. 10 and had to play out

of poison ivy after driving into the woods on No. 14.

But she compensated with enough dynamic shots for a 70, leaving her only four strokes back in a group that included 17-year-old amateur Paula Creamer (69).

Brittany Lincicome, the 18-year-old Florida amateur who led an after opening 66, dropped six strokes back after a 77.

Kelly Robbins also had a wild round.

She drove into the left rough on No. 15 and punched under the trees and into the cup for an eagle, capping a four-hole stretch she played in 5 under.

Robbins followed that with three straight bogeys, then nearly holed out a sand wedge to end her roller-coaster round of 67 that left her tied with Wie, Creamer and Pat Hurst (71) at 1 under.

"To keep myself in the ball game today was great," Robbins said.

Two-time champion Juli Inkster shot her second straight 71 to top a four-player group at even par. "Thirty-six holes is a lot of golf at a U.S. Open," Inkster said. "I like my position."

The one constant came from the best player in the game.

Sorenstam, who won the LPGA Championship three weeks ago in a 36-hole Sunday finish, missed only one green and one fairway, the kind of golf that usually wins the U.S. Women's Open.

"I think I'm in good position. I'm happy at this point," said Sorenstam, one of 75 players who had to return Friday morning to finish the first round.

"I'm trying to stay really calm,



Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines hits her driver off the 16th tee during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open at The Orchards in South Hadley, Mass., on Friday.

and I think one of the things that's good for me is that I'm tired."

Wie, who continues to draw the largest galleries at Orchards, never allowed herself to get on a roll. Powerful drives set up easy birdies, but she gave strokes back with wayward tee shots.

She drilled her second shot on the par-5 13th into 25 feet and squatted inches from the ground — no small feat for a 6-foot kid — when it grazed the lip. That put her at 3 under, closing in on the lead. But her tee shot on the next hole hooked so sharply to the left that Wie hit a provisional in case it was unplayable.

It was in play — sort of.

"I thought my ball was lost," she said. "But I was in poison ivy. And I was like, 'Can I get relief from that please?' But I didn't get relief. I just punched out."

She answered with an approach that landed 6 inches behind the cup on No. 15 and span back 6 feet for birdie, but again found trouble off the tee, this time on the 439-yard 16th hole, forcing her to lay up short of the creek.

Wie hit a lob wedge from 70 yards with hopes of it spinning back to the hole, but it sailed over the green, leading to a double bogey.

"I had a couple of ups and downs," Wie said. "If I just get rid of the downs, then I'll be good."

Wallace gets Busch win

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Mike Wallace drove from fifth to first on the last lap of Friday night's NASCAR Busch series race, taking advantage of crashes by Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Jr. to earn one of the biggest victories of his career.

Walltrip was strong throughout the race, but fell behind when he had a tire deflate 26 laps from the end of the 100-lap Winn-Dixie 250 at Daytona International Speedway.

He was 25th on the restart with nine laps remaining, but with four fresh tires charged through traffic and moved all the way to the lead on lap 98 with Jason Leffler right on his rear bumper and Earnhardt just behind.

As the leaders drove into turn two on the final lap, Waltrip slid up the track in front of Leffler, who bumped Waltrip and sent him spinning off the track and into the wall. That slowed Leffler a bit and Earnhardt, with momentum, drove high on the banked track to pass Leffler, who slid the track and pinned both himself and Earnhardt to the wall.

That opened the door for Wallace, who shot to the lead and beat Leffler to the finish line by 0.116 seconds. After the race, NASCAR penalized Leffler one second for unnecessary roughness, dropping him to 13th and giving second place to Greg Biffle.

Wallace had gone 137 races since his last Busch win in 1994.

Tracy claims Cleveland GP pole
CLEVELAND — Paul Tracy's morning spin didn't scare or even slow him down.

Just a few hours after he made two full rotations at even 140 mph, Tracy captured the pole for the Cleveland Grand Prix.

Tracy blasted around the bumpy 2.06-mile runway course at Burke Lakefront Airport in 57.546 seconds (131.749 mph) on Friday to win his first pole this season.

Rookie Justin Wilson had Friday's second fastest time — 57.954 seconds (130.821 mph).

Woods keeps cut streak intact

The Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — Tiger Woods glanced over at the whooping, cheering, Sunday-sized crowd and couldn't help but grin.

Once in danger of losing his extraordinary cut streak end, he not only made it to the weekend, but still has a shot at winning the Western Open.

"I just hope the leaders don't go off and hide," Woods said. "If they don't do that, there are a lot of guys right there with a chance."

He shot a 2-over 73 on Friday to make the cut by a stroke with a 1-over 143 total.

Woods is still seven shots be-

hind leaders Charles Howell III (67), Matt Gogel (64) and Steve Lowery (68). But the eight-time major champion went from flirting with the cut line to kissing the trophy before, and after Friday's round, anything is possible.

Beginning the day at 1 under and with the cut projected at 1 over, Woods got in trouble on the par-4 No. 3, his 12th hole.

"No," Woods said when asked if he'd ever thought about missing the cut. "I've experienced it once. Didn't like it very much."

Woods holds the PGA Tour record for consecutive cuts, a mark that stands at 126. The streak dates to his withdrawal from the 1998 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, and the only cut he's missed as a professional was in the 1997 Canadian Open at

Royal Montreal.

But just when he seems finished, Woods puts on one of those amazing displays that only he can pull off.

"I honestly think he can tie one of his hands behind his back and make him play left-handed, and he would still make the cut," Howell said. "He just has an incredible knack of just getting it done."

Goosen leads European Open
STRAFFAN, Ireland — U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen shot an even-par 72 on Saturday at the K Club and held a one-stroke lead after three rounds of the European Open.

Goosen led by two shots through 36 holes.
Spain's Jose Manuel Lara carded a 67 to move into second.

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Lance Armstrong had reason to smile after his final practice session before Saturday's start of the Tour de France. Although he didn't win the opening prologue, he did manage to distance himself from racers expected to give him the biggest challenge in his quest for an unprecedented sixth straight title in the world's most prestigious bicycle race.

AP



They're off!

Armstrong's second in prologue gives him immediate advantage

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

LIEGE, Belgium — Doubters take note: Lance Armstrong is not playing to lose.

Making an emphatic if not victo-

rious start to his record-chasing Tour de France, Armstrong dealt key rivals a psychological blow by leaving them in his wake in the debut time trial on Saturday.

The Texan, seeking to become the first six-time Tour winner, cast off the stress and murmurs that he is past his prime by speeding to second place in the 3.8-mile prologue race against the clock.

Only an exceptional ride by Fabian Cancellara, a Swiss rider nearly 10 years Armstrong's junior, deprived the 32-year-old five-time champion of a place atop the podium and the overall leader's yellow jersey he covets.

"I'm satisfied by the way I felt, but I'm disappointed to lose by only a couple of seconds. That's the way it goes," Armstrong said after a congratulatory kiss from rocker girlfriend Sheryl Crow. "The most important thing, is how does it feel? I was very comfortable, I felt strong, and that feels good."

Armstrong was 15 seconds ahead of his main rival, five-time Tour runnerup Jan Ullrich, and left contenders Tyler Hamilton and Ivan Mayo far behind, too. His performance was a strong start to what he fears will be his hardest Tour yet.

"It's just a start. They don't call it the prologue for nothing. It sets the tone of the race for the first week," he said. "There is a lot of dangerous racing to go. Just in three days, we have some sections of cobblestones, that if it rains and is windy, will be very dangerous."

Armstrong, who as defending champion started last of the 188 riders, pedaled furiously to finish just behind the 23-year-old Cancellara, who declared himself "the happiest man in the world."

Ullrich, the 1997 Tour victor, placed 16th. He still has three weeks to make up time, but still could rue the lost seconds if the race is tight. Last year, the German finished just 61 seconds behind Armstrong.

Hamilton, a former Armstrong teammate, was 18th on Saturday, 16 seconds behind the Texan. Mayo gave up 19 seconds to the five-time champion, placing 26th.

Cancellara, who competes for Italy's Fassa Bortolo team, rode at 33.207 mph through the crowd-lined streets of Liege.

He earned him the honor of wearing the leader's yellow jersey. Armstrong will be looking to wear that shirt himself when the Tour ends in Paris on July 25.

"We've seen already that Armstrong is in great form," Cancellara said.

After all the build-up, the speculation about whether Armstrong can win six times, the press interviews, medical checks and waiting for the start, riders were simply relieved to be under way.

On Sunday, the riders embark on the first full stage, a 125.5-mile trek from Liege to Charleroi, also in Belgium. The route starts with a series of small hills but levels out toward the end, perfect for speedy sprinters who tend to dominate the relatively flat first week or so of the race.



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SPORTS



Bruised Jeter returns to lineup;
Yankees battered by Mets,
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Tampa Bay Devil Rays outfielder Jose Cruz Jr. high-fives teammates after a recent victory. After losing 28 of their first 38 games, the Devil Rays have rebounded and are the first team in major league history to rise above .500 after being 18 games below.

At last, Rays of hope

Tampa not a contender, but it's come a long way

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

L ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Piniella concedes he sounded pretty foolish.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays manager kicked off a winter lullaby tour by guaranteeing his young team won't end up in last place again and made an even bolder prediction of a .500 finish a few days later.

"A manager should be enthusiastic about the prospects for his team," Piniella said, chuckling at the recollection.

"The safest approach you can take is:

'Well, we made changes. But we're in a tough division, we have a small payroll and we're young, and I'm hoping we do well. What does that accomplish? Let your players know that you feel good about them and that you have confidence in them.'

By the third stop on his good-

Despite the startling turnaround, the Devil Rays still let one get away once in a while.

Shortstop Julio Lugo fails to hang onto a single by Toronto's Gregg Zaun in a 14-0 loss to the Blue Jays on Thursday.



will junket, Piniella joked that if there were many more, he probably would wind up declaring the Devil Rays were going to win the rugged AL East and a World Series.

Well, no one's laughing now.

The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox are still the best teams in the division. But after losing 28 of their first 38 games, the Devil Rays turned their season around with a historic surge that carried them above .500 this late in the year for the first time.

They were a major league-best 20-6 in June, including a franchise-record 12-game winning streak, and became the first

team in major league history to get above the break-even point after being 18 games below.

On their way to 99 losses last season — their first under Piniella — the Devil Rays won five games in June.

"I told them a month ago, the only way you're going to be able to turn your fortunes around is by playing hard every day, having fun doing it and coming to the ballpark and repeating it every day. That's exactly what they've done," Piniella said.

"But what's really going to define our season is what happens over the next three months. ... What we've done is not a fluke. It's not an accident. You've got to play good baseball. We've played good



Despite 99 losses last season, Piniella had faith in his team. So far, it has paid off.

baseball at home, we've played good baseball on the road. So we're certainly capable."

The manager is hesitant, though, to go out on a limb and say the Devil Rays (39-38) are good enough to keep their hold on third place in the division behind the big-spending, star-laden Yankees and Red Sox.

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Teen Sharapova becomes first Russian to win Wimbledon title

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Armstrong makes strong showing in Tour prologue

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Rosales starts, finishes strong in second round of Women's Open

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